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PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION

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INTRODUCTION

1. The twentieth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 1 to 5 February 1999. The Council adopted the present proceedings at the 11th meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

1. The twentieth session of the Governing Council was opened on 1 February 1999 by Mr. Sid-Ali Ketrandji (Algeria), Vice-President of the Council at its nineteenth session.

2. Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, read out, on behalf of Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, a message to the participants at the twentieth session of the Governing Council from Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The opening meeting of the session was also addressed by representatives of youth organizations, who referred to the call to youth in Agenda 21 to participate actively in environmental matters and pledged their commitment to mobilize youth in their own countries to work for the good of the environment. To that end, their forum had established a youth advisory council for UNEP, which would facilitate the involvement of youth in all aspects of the organization's work, including in the negotiation and preparation of environmental legislation and treaties and the formulation of work programmes. Pleading with representatives not to politicize the environment, they urged Governments to develop a vision for the global environment and to increase their financial contributions in realizing that vision. We must all live simply, they said, so that future generations could simply live.

4. The representative of Venezuela read out a statement from Mr. Arnoldo José Gabaldón (Venezuela), President of the Council at its nineteenth session, who recalled that he had assumed the presidency at a time of crisis for the organization and noted, with gratification, that UNEP had largely overcome that crisis over the intervening two years, thanks to such measures as the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme; the strengthening of the Committee of Permanent Representatives; and the establishment of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials. Highlighting other landmarks in the work of UNEP over that period, including strengthened cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), he wished the incoming President and his Bureau every success in their future work.

5. Mr. Sid-Ali Ketrandji then addressed the Council. In his statement, he said that the forthcoming session of the Council marked an important stage in the process of change and renewal of UNEP. The proposed programme of work for the period 2000-2001 aimed to give effect to the reforms instituted by the Executive Director and included among its areas of focus support for Africa and the addressing of regional concerns. He stressed that UNEP must be given the necessary financial resources to perform its role as a global moral authority and efficient instrument in the field of the environment. To that end, he welcomed the strengthened coordination between UNEP and GEF, and drew attention to the important task faced by the Council at its current session in preparing the UNEP contribution to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In conclusion, he hoped that the

current session of the Council would help launch a new universal compact on protection of the environment which eschewed the ponderous and short-term procedures of the past and gave expression to true international solidarity.

6. Mr. Francis Nyenze, Minister for Environmental Conservation of the Republic of Kenya, representative of the host Government, welcomed all participants on behalf of the people of Kenya. He congratulated the Executive Director on the progress made to date, and assured him and his staff of the continued support of the Government of Kenya. He also expressed gratitude for the support UNEP was offering to Africa and hoped that assistance would continue, to enable Africa to implement its environmental programmes and meet its obligations under the various international environmental agreements. Finally, he urged the members attending the current session of the Council to look for all possible ways and means of further enhancing the role of UNEP as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment by supporting it with adequate, stable and predictable funding.

7. Also at the opening meeting, the Council heard a statement from Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP. In his statement, Mr. Töpfer applauded the invaluable efforts of the Committee of Permanent Representative to UNEP in the preparations and discussions over the months leading up to the current session of the Council. The areas of concentration agreed by the Governing Council at its fifth special session remained of key relevance. Financial setbacks resulting from recent economic and financial shocks should not result in long-term reversal of environmental policies. Noting the new integrated organizational structure of UNEP, which was functional rather than sectoral, he emphasized that the budget of $119.41 million, including $100 million for programme activities, was the minimum necessary for UNEP to regain its effectiveness, critical mass and operating capital. In closing, he applauded the increased contributions to the Environment Fund by 33 Member States since 1998 and hoped that the trend would mean that the 1998-1999 approved budget would be fully funded.

8. The full statement of the Executive Director was subsequently circulated under the symbol UNEP/GC.20/2/Add.1.

B. Attendance

9. The following 52 States members of the Governing Council 1/ were represented at the session:

Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi

1/ The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 68th plenary meeting of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, held on 21 November 1995, and the 56th plenary meeting of the fifty-second session, held on 26 November 1997 (decisions 50/308 and 52/315).

Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Cuba
Czech Republic
Finland
France
Germany
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islam Republic of)
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Malawi
Mauritania
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Slovakia
Sudan
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

10. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were represented by observers:

Bangladesh
Brazil
Costa Rica
Côte D'Ivoire
Cyprus
Denmark
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Holy See
Iceland
Iraq
Israel
Kuwait
Mali
Malta
Mauritius
Monaco
Mozambique
Namibia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Oman
Portugal
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia.

Palestine was also represented.

11. The following United Nations bodies, Secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented:

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations Development Programme Office to Combat Desertification and Drought
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

12. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
World Bank
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented:

African Development Bank (ADB)
European Community
Interstate Ecological Council
League of Arab States (LAS)
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Organization of African Unity (OAU)
Organization of American States (OAS)
Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
Southern African Development Community (SADC).
World Tourism Organization (WTO)

14. In addition, 40 non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

15. At the opening session of the meeting, on 1 February 1999, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. László Míklos (Slovakia)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Jean P. Nsengiyumva (Burundi) Mr. Leandro Arellano (Mexico) Mr. Jan Pronk (Netherlands)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Hossein Fadaei (Islamic Republic of Iran)

16. In his acceptance statement, the President recalled that the current revitalization of UNEP had been defined by the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme by the Council at its nineteenth session, and said that the appointment of Mr. Klaus Töpfer as Executive Director had significantly helped to restore the confidence of Governments in UNEP and its leadership. Referring to the agenda of the current session, he drew particular attention to the proposed budget and programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001, in which special attention had to be paid to the availability of resources; the need to revisit the current work programme and related budget approved by the Council at its nineteenth session, in the light of the changes in the organizational structure and the reorientation of areas; the UNEP contribution to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and the need to have a full discussion on the issue of freshwater. He also stressed the need to strengthen the role of UNEP as an implementing agency of GEF, and the need for better coherence, coordination and efficiency with respect to the global environmental conventions and the support that UNEP provided to them. In conclusion, he said that the current session should send out positive signals of the progress made by UNEP in the process of revitalization and reform, and should reaffirm its support for the work of the Executive Director in the implementation of the UNEP work programme.

D. Credentials of representatives

17. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999.

E. Agenda

18. At the opening meeting of the session, the President explained that items 6, 7 and 8 had been added to the revised provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.20/1/Rev.1) by the Executive Director in the light of developments which had not been foreseeable at the time of the adoption of the provisional agenda at the Council's nineteenth session. The Council then adopted the revised provisional agenda, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

   (a) State of the environment;

   (b) Emerging policy issues;

   (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;

   (d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.

5. Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions.

6. Results of the General Assembly's consideration of the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session on environment and human settlements (A/53/463).

7. Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions.

8. Preparations for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.

10. Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Council.

11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report.

13. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session

19. At the 1st meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated agenda and organization of work (UNEP/GC.20/1/Add.1/Rev.1) and the provisional timetable of meetings

suggested by the Executive Director. The timetable of meetings for the session, as approved by the Council, was subsequently circulated as document UNEP/GC.20/L.10.

20. Also at its 1st meeting, the Council decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a sessional Committee of the Whole to consider agenda item 9 (Programme, Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters). The Committee of the Whole would meet concurrently with the plenary and was expected to conclude its work on Wednesday, 3 February 1999. The Council also decided that all other substantive agenda items would be taken up directly in the plenary.

21. It was further decided at the 1st meeting of the session that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. Leandro Arellano (Mexico), Vice-President of the Council. In addition, the Council decided that Mr. Nsengiyumva (Burundi), Vice-President of the Council, should assist the President in the performance of his functions, particularly by presiding over plenary meetings on his behalf.

22. At the 3rd plenary meeting of the session, it was decided to establish an open-ended negotiating group, to be chaired Mr. Gertjan Storm (Netherlands), on behalf of the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Jan Pronk (Netherlands), with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group, in order to discuss draft decisions before they were formally considered by the plenary.

23. At the 6th plenary meeting of the session, it was decided that an open-ended subgroup should be established under the negotiating group, to be chaired by Mr. Werner Obermeyer (South Africa), with the specific mandate to consider the draft decision under agenda item 6 (Results of the General Assembly's consideration of the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session on environment and human settlements (A/53/463)), once it had been discussed in the negotiating group, with a view to reaching a consensus text for adoption by the plenary.

G. Report of the high-level segment

24. The report of the high-level segment of the session, held on 4 and 5 February 1999, is contained in annex II to the present proceedings.

H. Report of the Committee of the Whole

25. The Committee of the Whole held eight meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. L. Arellano (Mexico), Vice-President of the Council, from 1 to 4 February 1999, to consider agenda item 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters), as allocated to it by the Council.

26. At its 1st meeting, the Committee of the Whole elected Mr. David Swao (Kenya), to serve as Rapporteur for its meetings.

27. With regard to the organization of work of the Committee of the Whole, it was agreed that a general discussion would be held on agenda item 9. Thereafter, the Committee would have more detailed discussions on specific

issues, clustered as follows: (a) environmental assessment and early warning; (b) policy development and law and policy implementation; (c) technology, industry and economics; (d) regional cooperation and representation, environmental conventions and communications and public information; and (e) the Global Environment Facility, management and administration.

28. The Committee agreed to set up an informal, open-ended working group to consider the proposed budget, as contained in document UNEP/GC.20/22, and other documents relating to administrative and budgetary matters. The group comprised a core membership of Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Czech Republic, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, Poland, and Sudan, and was coordinated by Mr. Svein Mehli (Norway). The mandate of the working group was to undertake a debate on all documents relating to budgetary and administrative matters and to submit the outcome of its debate to the Committee of the Whole for further decision-making.

29. The report of the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.20/L.12) was taken note of by the Council at the 9th plenary meeting of the session, on 4 February 1999, and is incorporated into chapter VIII of the present proceedings.

II. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS 2/

Global Environment Outlook (decision 20/1)

1. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 4 February 1999, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1, draft decision 1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

2. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 20/2)

3. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1, draft decision 2), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of a draft submitted by Sudan and Morocco (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), which superseded an earlier draft decision (UNEP/GC.20/L.1, decision 2), submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

5. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that his delegation's acceptance of the decision should in no way be construed as recognition of the State of Israel on the part of his Government.

Programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law beyond the year 2000 (decision 20/3)

6. At the 6th meeting of the session, on 3 February 1999, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Rev.1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.20/L.2, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

7. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

8. Following the adoption of decision, the representative of Turkey said that Turkey still maintained its reservations concerning the study on dispute avoidance and dispute settlement in international environmental law (UNEP/GC.20/INF/16), which was referred to in paragraph 1 of the decision.

2/ For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twentieth session, see annex I to the present proceedings.

Promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (decision 20/4)

9. At the 9th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

10. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better access to environmental information (decision 20/5)

11. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 2), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

12. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building (decision 20/6)

13. At the 11th meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

14. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Global Environment Facility (decision 20/7)

15. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 2), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

16. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies (decision 20/8)

17. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 3), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 3 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

18. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The role of women in environment and development (decision 20/9)

19. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 4), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 4 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

20. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (decision 20/10)

21. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 5), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 5 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

22. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Support for cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme through the regional offices for West Asia and Africa (decision 20/11)

23. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 6), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of a draft submitted by Sudan and Morocco (on behalf of the Group of Arab States).

24. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system (decision 20/12)

25. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 7), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of a draft submitted by Germany (on behalf of the European Union).

26. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment (decision 20/13)

27. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Add.1/Rev.1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

28. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

29. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Report on the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council (decision 20/14)

30. At the 9th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.7/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.7, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

31. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 20/15)

32. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.7/Rev.1, draft decision 2), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.7, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

33. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and at its nineteenth special session, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 20/16)

34. At the 6th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.8/Rev.1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.20/L.8, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

35. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements (decision 20/17)

36. At the 11th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.14), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of a draft submitted by the Bureau, which superseded an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.20/L.9).

37. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

38. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Environmental conventions (decisions 20/18 A and B)

Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (decision 20/18 A)

39. At the 9th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.6/Rev.1, draft decision A), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision A in document UNEP/GC.20/L.6, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

40. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and in providing programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions (decision 20/18 B)

41. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.6/Rev.1, draft decision B), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision B in document UNEP/GC.20/L.6, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

42. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session (decision 20/19)

43. At the 11th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.4/Rev.1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.20/L.4, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

44. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

45. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific (decision 20/20)

46. At the 9th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5, draft decision 5), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 5 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Canada, Mexico and the United States of America.

47. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Coral reefs (decision 20/21)

48. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 6), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of a draft submitted by Australia, France, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico and the United States of America.

49. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (decision 20/22)

50. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 7), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 7 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

51. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Chemicals management (decision 20/23)

52. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 11), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 11 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the United States of America.

53. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

54. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

International action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument (decision 20/24)

55. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 13), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 13 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

56. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Freshwater (decision 20/25)

57. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 8), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft

decision 8 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Australia, Japan, Turkey and the United States of America.

58. During the approval of the draft decision in the Committee of the Whole, the representative of Ethiopia had expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 2.

59. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

60. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Biosafety (decision 20/26)

61. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 9), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 9 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Austria, Canada and Germany (on behalf of the European Union).

62. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

63. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Support to Africa (decision 20/27)

64. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 10), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 10 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Germany (on behalf of the European Union).

65. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs (decision 20/28)

66. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 12), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 12 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Germany (on behalf of the European Union).

67. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services (decision 20/29)

68. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 14), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 14 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

69. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Mercure satellite communications systems (decision 20/30)

70. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 7), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 7 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Cuba, Kenya, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

71. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001 (decision 20/31)

72. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 3), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 3 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the working group on the budget.

73. Following the approval of the draft decision by the Committee of the Whole, the representative of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union and requesting that his statement be included in the report of the Committee, referred to document UNEP/GC.20/INF/5 and said that, apparently, the new $2 million from the regular budget for UNON would not mean a decrease of $2 million in the contributions from both the Environment Fund and the UNCHS (Habitat) budget. It seemed that the increase of $2 million would ease the burden of the Environment Fund budget, but not of the budget of UNCHS (Habitat). Such a case would represent a difficult issue during the May meeting of the UNCHS (Habitat) Commission. He also sought an explanation of how the new $2 million would affect the income and expenditure side of the UNON budget, in relation to the UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) budget. In addition, he sought clarification concerning the upgrading of several positions in the UNON budget proposal, bearing in mind the constant urging by the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to cut down administrative costs.

74. In reply, the Chief of Administration of UNON indicated that, according to document UNEP/GC.20/INF/5, the budget estimates of the UNON administration for the biennium 2000-2001 provided for a reduction before recosting in the extra-budgetary resource requirements to be covered by UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) of $3.96 million or 23.6 per cent. Out of that figure, a reduction

of $2 million was due to an increase in the regular budget allocations to UNON in the same amount. For distributing those $2 million savings between UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) extra-budgetary funds, an agreed cost-sharing formula of 75 to 25 had been applied. Thus, the UNCHS (Habitat) share was approximately $0.5 million before recosting. With respect to the upgrading of several positions, as contained in the UNON budget proposal, the promotions in question were based on the evaluation of the formal job descriptions and duties involved, and brought the positions concerned to the same level as similar positions in other United Nations duty stations.

75. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

76. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1998-1999 and proposals for 2000-2001 (decision 20/32)

77. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 2), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the working group on the budget.

78. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 20/33)

79. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 4), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 4 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the working group on the budget and by Australia and Japan.

80. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions (decision 20/34)

81. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 5), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 5 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

82. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions (decision 20/35)

83. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 6), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 6 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

84. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997 (decision 20/36)

85. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 15), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of the action suggested by the Executive Director in his note on the subject (UNEP/GC.20/24).

86. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 20/37)

87. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

88. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (decision 20/38)

89. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

90. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization (decision 20/39)

91. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, decision 2), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

92. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Functioning of specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 20/40)

93. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 3), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 3 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Germany (on behalf of the European Union) and Zimbabwe.

94. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Functioning of the Ombudsman Unit (decision 20/41)

95. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 8), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 8 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the working group on the budget.

96. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Other decisions

Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council

97. At the 11th meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Council (UNEP/GC.20/L.13).

98. The representative of Germany introduced an oral amendment to item 7 of the provisional agenda proposed by the Bureau.

99. The proposal of the Bureau, as orally amended by the representative of Germany, was adopted by consensus.

100. During the adoption of the proposal, the representative of Colombia said that, while he agreed that the twenty-first session of the Governing Council could be of five-days duration, there was a need to consider the possibility of reverting to two-week sessions, as one week did not provide sufficient time to consider all the issues.

101. The representative of Burundi stressed the need to adhere to the six-week rule for the circulation of pre-session documentation, as a one-week session was too short to review all the documents in detail.

Membership of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials

102. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Governing Council announced that the following States had been nominated by their respective regional groups to serve as members of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials for a two-year term, except as otherwise indicated, in accordance

with paragraph (b) of Governing Council decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, China, Congo, Cuba, Denmark (for 2000 only), Finland (for 1999 only), France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

103. The Governing Council decided to elect by acclamation as members of the High-level Committee the States nominated by the regional groups.

III. POLICY ISSUES

1. As agreed by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session, item 4 and its four subitems were taken up together. The item was taken up by the Council at the 2nd plenary meeting of the session, on 1 February 1999.

2. In considering these items the Council had before it the following documentation:

(a) Under agenda item 4, the policy statement by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.20/2) and his statement made at the opening meeting of session (UNEP/GC.20/2/Add.1);

(b) Under item 4 (a) (State of the environment), the progress report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Outlook process (UNEP/GC.20/3), supplemented by two information documents, a summary and synthesis of GEO-2000 (UNEP/GC.20/INF/8) a preliminary version of the draft assessment strategy prepared by an expert team of external consultants on environmental observing and assessment strategy (UNEP/GC.20/INF/18); and the report of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.20/4), supplemented by a note by the Executive Director transmitting an updated report on the environmental situation in those territories (UNEP/GC.20/INF/9). It also had before it draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the Global Environment Outlook (UNEP/GC.20/L.1, draft decision 1) and on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.20/L.1, draft decision 2);

(c) Under item 4 (b) (Emerging policy issues), the report of the Executive Director on the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law beyond the year 2000 (UNEP/GC.20/5); the report of the Executive Director on the promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (UNEP/GC.20/45), supplemented by two information documents, on communications and public information services 1999-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/INF/2) and on the study on dispute avoidance and dispute settlement in international environmental law and the conclusions of the UNEP International Group of Experts on Dispute Avoidance and Dispute Settlement in International Environmental Law (UNEP/GC.20/INF/16); the report of the Executive Director on reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information (UNEP/GC.20/46), supplemented by an information note by the Executive Director transmitting the Washington Statement by the members of the UNEP/INFOTERRA Advisory Committee on the reform of the UNEP global environmental information exchange network, INFOTERRA, to ensure better public access to environmental information (UNEP/GC.20/INF/17). It also had before it draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law beyond the year 2000 (UNEP/GC.20/L.2); on the promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1, draft decision 1); and on the reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information (UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1).

(d) Under item 4 (c), (Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations), the reports of the Executive Director on policy and advisory services of UNEP in key areas of institution-building (UNEP/GC.20/6); on the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.20/7); on the participation of UNEP in the work of GEF (UNEP/GC.20/8); on the action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by UNEP under GEF and its programme of work (UNEP/GC.20/44); on further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies (UNEP/GC.20/9); on the role of women in environment and development (UNEP/GC.20/10); and on implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1997-1998 (UNEP/GC.20/11). Those reports were supplemented by information notes on the memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation between UNEP and the other organizations of the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.20/INF/4 and Add.1) The Council also had before it draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on policy and advisory services of UNEP in key areas of institution-building; on GEF; on further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies; on the role of women in environment and development; on land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNEP/GC.20/L.3); and on the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Add.1);

(e) Under the last item, 4 (d) (Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme), a note by the Executive Director on the report on the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council (UNEP/GC.20/12), which was supplemented by an information document containing the reports of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/INF/14); and the Executive Director on assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of UNEP (UNEP/GC.20/13). In addition, the Council considered a draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the report on the work of subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council (UNEP/GC.20/L.7).

3. At its 2nd plenary meeting, the Council heard statements from the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Thailand and the United States of America. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

4. At its 3rd plenary meeting, the Council heard statements from the representatives of Brazil, Colombia, India, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey.

5. The representative of Palestine also made a statement under the agenda item 4.

6. A statement was also made by the representative of the Global Legislators' Organization for a Better Environment (GLOBE), to which the representative of Kenya responded.

7. At the 6th plenary meeting, the representative of Israel made a statement under the agenda item.

8. In response to comments by previous speakers, the Executive Director welcomed the views expressed on the Global Environment Outlook process, which, he said, would be the flagship of UNEP, and hoped that the second report in the series would be ready before the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. He also shared representatives' concerns regarding the volume and timing of the documentation for the session and suggested that consideration be given to ways of consolidating and decreasing the number of documents. Finally, on the issue of the establishment of an environmental management group and its possible overlap with the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group, he stressed the need for a more flexible, issue-oriented consultative body to guide international environmental policy.

Action by the Council

9. At the 6th, 9th and 11th plenary meetings of the session, held on 3, 4 and 5 February, respectively, the Governing Council adopted a number of decisions (decisions 20/1 to 20/15) under this item. The text of those decisions is contained in annex I to the present proceedings, and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above.

IV. FOLLOW-UP OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

1. Agenda item 5 was taken up by the Council at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 2 February 1999.

2. In considering the item, the Council had before it the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and nineteenth special session, specifically calling for action by UNEP (UNEP/GC.20/14). In addition, the Council had before it a draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and nineteenth special session, specifically calling for action by UNEP (UNEP/GC.20/L.8).

3. Introducing the item, the Executive Director welcomed the increased attention being given by the General Assembly to environmental matters and its strong endorsement of the work of the Governing Council, contained in resolution 53/187 of 15 December 1998. He also drew attention to resolution 52/182 of 18 December 1997, which called for strengthened integration of trade, environment and development.

4. Following that introduction, the Council heard statements from the representatives of India and Indonesia.

Action by the Council

5. At the 6th plenary meeting of the session, on 3 February 1999, the Governing Council adopted decision 20/16 under this item. The text of the decision is contained in annex I to the present proceedings, and the process of adoption is recorded in chapter II above.

V. RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S CONSIDERATION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-THIRD SESSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (A/53/463)

1. Agenda item 6 was taken up by the Council at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 2 February 1999.

2. Under the item, the Council had before it the report of the Executive Director on the results of the General Assembly's consideration of the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session on environment and human settlements (UNEP/GC.20/15), supplemented by two information documents, namely, a note by the secretariat transmitting to the Governing Council the report of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements to the Secretary-General (UNEP/GC.20/INF/3) and the note of the Executive Director transmitting to the Council the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements, presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (UNEP/GC.20/INF/13). The Council also had before it a draft decision on the subject, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.20/L.9).

3. The item was introduced by the Executive Director, who reviewed the background composition and work of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements and outlined its main recommendations. Although the General Assembly had not yet concluded its consideration of the item at its fifty-third session, the Secretary-General, in his message read out to the Governing Council at the 1st meeting of the session, had said that he would welcome the views of the Council thereon, especially on those aspects that would directly affect its work.

4. Following the introduction by the Executive Director, the Council heard statements under the item by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Kenya (on behalf of the African Group) and Switzerland.

5. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 2 February 1999, the Council heard statements under the item by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina (on behalf of the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries), Australia, Canada, China, Cuba, Hungary, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden (speaking in his capacity as a member of the Task Force), Thailand and the United States of America. At the same meeting, the Council also heard statements by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, who spoke also on behalf of the Human Ecology Council of Kenya and the International Federation of University Women, as well as, in general, of the elderly.

6. At the 6th meeting of the session, on 3 February 1999, the Council decided that consultations on a draft decision under the item would be pursued in an open-ended subgroup of the negotiating group established at the 1st meeting of the session.

Action by the Council

7. At the 11th meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council adopted decision 20/17 under this item. The text of the decision is contained in annex I to the present proceedings, and the process of adoption is recorded in chapter II above.

VI. LINKAGES AMONG AND SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENVIRONMENT-RELATED CONVENTIONS

8. Agenda item 7 was taken up by the Governing Council at its 4th plenary meeting, on 2 February 1999.

9. Under this item the Council had before it the following documentation: the report of the Executive Director on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among environmental conventions (UNEP/GC.20/16); the report of the Executive Director on programmatic support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to environmental conventions (UNEP/GC.20/17); and report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.20/18). The Council also had before it draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment; and strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among environmental conventions and in providing programmatic support to environmental conventions (UNEP/GC.20/L.6).

10. Introducing the item, the Executive Director recalled that the Governing Council at its fifth special session has endorsed the inclusion of "enhanced coordination of environmental conventions and development of environmental policy instruments" as one of the areas of concentration of UNEP. Consequently, he had established a Division on Environmental Conventions within the secretariat, the strategic mission of which was mapped out in the documents before the Council under the item. The relevant draft decision before the Council would, if adopted, allow UNEP to play a more effective role in enhancing cooperation among conventions. More details could be found in the programme budget, which was currently under discussion in the Committee of the Whole.

11. At the invitation of the President, Mr. Michael Zammit-Cutajar, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change also made an introductory statement, in which he noted that the issues involved had to a great extent already been covered by the Council in its discussion of agenda item 6. The recommendations on the subject by the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements were sensible and prudent in substance and clear on the process required to give them effect. The bottom line of the Task Force report was that there was a need to work to build a strong UNEP to play a full role as a partner to the conventions. As far as linkages were concerned, while the issues could be addressed bilaterally, they would be most effectively considered through a coherent framework, which UNEP had the opportunity to provide. At the operational level, GEF had an important role in the development of projects on linkages, while the capacities of UNDP should be drawn on for measures at the national level. On the question of support, he said that UNEP scientific capacity could be harnessed to provide valuable inputs to the work of specific conventions, as it had done with the Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the context of the Kyoto Protocol, he had already met with the Executive Director, with a view to establishing an appropriate work process and at achieving a productive division of labour.

12. Taking into account the fact that the issue of linkages among and support to environmental conventions had been addressed in the statements made under agenda item 6, there was no general debate under this item at the 4th plenary meeting of the session.

13. At the 6th plenary meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement under the item.

Action by the Council

14. At the 9th meeting of the session, the Governing Council adopted two decisions (decisions 20/18 A and B) under this item. The text of the decision is contained in annex I to the present proceedings, and the process of adoption is recorded in chapter II above.

VII. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Agenda item 8 was taken up by the Council at its 5th plenary meeting, on 3 February 1999.

2. In considering the item, the Council had before it the reports of the Executive Director on the contribution of UNEP to the Commission at its seventh session, on UNEP activities regarding small island developing States (UNEP/GC.20/19); on UNEP activities regarding oceans management (UNEP/GC.20/19/Add.1); on UNEP activities regarding tourism (UNEP/GC.20/19/Add.2); and on the role of UNEP in the promotion of sustainable production and consumption (UNEP/GC.20/42). Those reports were supplemented by an information note by the Executive Director circulating position papers prepared for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development by the small island developing States in the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic regions and by the Pacific island countries (UNEP/GC.20/INF/15). The Council had before it a draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on UNEP's contribution to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (UNEP/GC.20/L.4) on oceans and seas; the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, on sustainable tourism, on small island developing States, and on changing production and consumption patterns (UNEP/GC.20/L.4).

3. Introducing the item, the Deputy Executive Director drew attention to salient points in the papers prepared by the secretariat and explained that, in response to the recommendation of the small working group set up to consider the issue, it had been decided to combine the separate draft decisions that had been prepared under the item into a single, omnibus decision, but that the text of that omnibus decision had not been considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. Following that introduction, at the invitation of the President, Ms. Joanne Disano, representing the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, also made an introductory statement, in which she reaffirmed the need for a strong and effective UNEP and hoped that the contribution sent by UNEP to the forthcoming session of the Commission would clearly identify the role of UNEP in the Commission's activities. It was also important that sufficient financial resources were secured to enable UNEP to fulfil that role. The decision to be adopted by UNEP could include an undertaking to strengthen both the regional seas programme and the role of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and efforts to ensure the full integration of environmental considerations in tourism-related work, including in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

5. Following those introductory statements, the Council, at its 5th plenary meeting, heard statements under the item from the representatives of Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Iceland, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malta (on behalf of the small island developing States of the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic regions), the Republic of Korea, Romania, Tunisia,

Turkey and the United States of America. Statements under the item were also made the representatives of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The representative of the International Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts also made a more general statement.

6. At the 6th plenary meeting of the session, Ms. Jaqueline Aloisi de Larderel, Director, Technology, Industry and Economics Division, and Mr. Jorge Illueca, Assistant Executive Director, Division of Environmental Conventions, responded to questions and concerns raised by speakers, assuring the Council of the determination of UNEP to achieve the ambitious goals it had set itself in the areas under consideration and, in particular, to promote sustainable consumption and to strengthen the regional seas programme. It was also clarified that the papers before the Council would be revised to incorporate improvements suggested by representatives and submitted as background papers to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, while the omnibus decision to be adopted by the Council would be forwarded as its recommendation to the Commission.

Action by the Council

7. At the 11th meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council adopted decision 20/19 under this item. The text of the decision is contained in annex I to the present proceedings, and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above.

VIII. PROGRAMME, THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER BUDGETARY MATTERS

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st plenary meeting of the session (see chapter I, para. 20 above), agenda item 9 was taken up in the sessional Committee of the Whole.

2. In considering the agenda item, the Committee had before it the following documentation: report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (UNEP/GC.20/20); note of the Executive Director to circulate the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the proposed budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/21); comments of the Executive Director on the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the proposed budget: revised requirements for 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/47); report of the Executive Director on proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/22 and Add.1); report of the Executive Director on stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/23); note of the Executive Director containing the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and his comments on Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997 (UNEP/GC.20/24); report of the Executive Director on management of trust funds and counterpart contributions (UNEP/GC.20/25); report of the Executive Director on the cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions (UNEP/GC.20/26); report of the Executive Director on Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and Revision of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/27); report of the Executive Director on functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization (UNEP/GC.20/28); report of the Executive Director on functioning of the specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/29); report of the Executive Director on Mercure satellite communications system: a full review and cost-benefit analysis of the system and the experience gained in its initial operation (UNEP/GC.20/30); report of the Executive Director on freshwater issues: progress in the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.V/4 and environmental issues arising from the decision (UNEP/GC.20/31); report of the Executive Director on status on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GC.20/32 and Corr.1); report of the Executive Director on biosafety-related issues: implementation of Governing Council decision 19/16 (UNEP/GC.20/33); report of the Executive Director on support to Africa (UNEP/GC.20/34); report of the executive Director on status on the establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific region (UNEP/GC.20/35); progress report of the Executive Director on the International Coral Reef Initiative (UNEP/GC.20/36); report of the Executive Director on further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals (UNEP/GC.20/37); report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on

the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (UNEP/GC.20/39 and Corr.1); report of the Executive Director on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs (UNEP/GC.20/40); and report of the Executive Director on international action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/GC.20/41); the report of the Executive Director on policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services (UNEP/GC.20/43); and the action plan on complementarity and additionality between United Nations Environment Programme's GEF activities and its regular programme (UNEP/GC.20/44).

3. The Committee also considered the following information documents: United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON): proposed programme budget of the Division of Administrative Services for the biennium 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/INF/5); note of the Executive Director to circulate the report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the accounts of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1997 (UNEP/GC.20/INF/6); note of the Executive Director to submit the status of implementation of the recommendation of the Board of Auditors in its report on the accounts of the United Nations environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1997 (UNEP/GC.20/INF/7); note of the Executive Director to circulate the report on triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fifth session on the evaluation of the programme on environment (UNEP/GC.20/INF/10); note of the Executive Director to circulate the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (UNEP/GC.20/INF/11); note of the Executive Director to circulate the revised legislative and financial texts regarding the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Fund (UNEP/GC.20/INF/12); note by the Executive Director on UNEP management response to the 1997 Annual Evaluation Report (UNEP/GC.20/INF/19); note of the Executive Director to circulate the report on enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals (UNEP/GC.20/INF/20); and submission by South Africa on Cape Town Declaration on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNEP/GC.20/INF/21).

4. Under the agenda item, the Committee also considered the following draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives: revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme; functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization; functioning of specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme; implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific; coral reefs; outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; and functioning of the Ombudsman Unit (UNEP/GC.20/L.5). The Committee of Permanent Representatives also submitted additional draft decisions: report on the status of implementation of the recommendations

contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services; report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1998-1999 and proposals for 2000-2001; proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001; stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme; management of trust funds and counterpart contributions; the cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions; Mercure satellite communications system; freshwater; biosafety; support to Africa; further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals; promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs; and international action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1).

General discussion

5. At the 1st meeting of the Committee, the Executive Director of UNEP presented agenda item 9 and formally introduced the document "Proposed programme budget of UNEP, revised requirements for 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for 2000-2001" (UNEP GC.20/22). In his presentation, he made a strong case for a programme budget for 2000-2001 based on $100 million. It was noted that his address represented the first time in the history of the Governing Council that an Executive Director had addressed the Committee of the Whole.

6. During the general discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Burundi, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt (on behalf of the group of African countries), Germany (on behalf of the European Union), India (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United States of America.

7. During the general discussion, reference was also made to the following documents: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the revised UNEP budget proposals for 1998-1999 and proposals for 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/21); comments of the Executive Director on the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget of the United Nations Environment Fund: revised proposals for 1998-1999 and proposals for 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC/20/47).

Cluster 1. Environmental assessment and early warning

8. The item was taken up by the Committee at its 1st meeting, on 1 February 1999. The item was introduced by representatives of the Secretariat.

9. A presentation was also made by Dr. Robert Watson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

10. In its consideration of the cluster, the Committee had before it the report of the Executive Director on proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/22 and Add.1); the note of the Executive Director containing the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and his comments on Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997 (UNEP/GC.20/24); and the report of the Executive Director on Mercure satellite communications system: a full review and cost-benefit analysis of the system and the experience gained in its initial operation (UNEP/GC.20/30).

11. At its 1st and 2nd meeting, the Committee heard statements from the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt (on behalf of the group of African countries), Indonesia, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

Cluster 2. Policy development and law, policy implementation

12. The item was taken up by the Committee at its 2nd meeting, on 2nd February 1999. In its consideration of policy development and law, and policy implementation, the Committee had before it the report of the Executive Director on proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/22 and Add.1); the draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives: revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme; functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization; functioning of specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme; implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific; coral reefs; outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; and functioning of the Ombudsman Unit (UNEP/GC.20/L.5); the Committee of Permanent Representatives also submitted additional draft decisions: report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1998-1999 and proposals for 2000-2001; proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001; stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme; management of trust funds and counterpart contributions; the cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions; Mercure satellite communications system; freshwater; biosafety; support to Africa; further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals; promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs; and international action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants.

including the development of an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/23); report of the Executive Director on freshwater issues: the progress in the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.V/4 and environmental issues arising from the decision (UNEP/GC.20/31); the report of the Executive Director on status on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GC.20/32 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on biosafety-related issues: and the implementation of Governing Council decision 19/16 (UNEP/GC.20/33).

13. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP introduced the item. At that meeting, the Committee heard statements from the representatives of Australia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cuba, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African Countries), Ethiopia, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Ghana, Iceland, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway, Tunisia, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

Cluster 3. Technology, industry and economics

14. The item was taken up by the Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 2 February 1999. In its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Executive Director on functioning of the specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/29); the report of the Executive Director on further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals (UNEP/GC.20/37); the report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (UNEP/GC.20/39 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on international action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/GC.20/41); the report of the Executive Director on policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services (UNEP/GC.20/43); and the note of the Executive Director to circulate the report on enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals (UNEP/GC.20/INF/20).

15. The item was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. Following that introduction, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Egypt (on behalf of the group of African countries), Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

Cluster 4. Regional cooperation and representation, environmental conventions and communications and public information

16. The item was taken up by the Committee at its 3rd and 4th meeting, on 2 February 1999. In its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Executive Director on functioning of the regional offices

and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization (UNEP/GC.20/28); the report of the Executive Director on support to Africa (UNEP/GC.20/34); the report of the Executive Director on status on the establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific region (UNEP/GC.20/35); the progress report of the Executive Director on the International Coral Reef Initiative (UNEP/GC.20/36); the report of the Executive Director on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs (UNEP/GC.20/40); the note of the Executive Director to circulate the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (UNEP/GC.20/INF/11); and the submission by South Africa on Cape Town Declaration on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNEP/GC.20/INF/21).

17. The topic of regional cooperation and representation was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 2 February 1999, the Committee heard statements on the subject from the representatives of Australia, Benin, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt (on behalf of the group of African countries), Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, United States of America and Viet Nam.

18. At the 4th meeting, on 2 February 1999, the topic of environmental conventions and communications and public information was introduced by two representatives of the Secretariat. At that meeting statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Burundi, Canada, Cuba, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, United States of America and Zambia.

Cluster 5. Management and administration

19. In its consideration of management and administration the Committee had before it the following documents, which were introduced by the representative of the Secretariat: report of the Executive Director on proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/22 and Add.1); the note of the Executive Director to circulate the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the proposed budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/21); the comments of the Executive Director on the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the proposed budget: revised requirements for 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/47); the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON): proposed programme budget of the Division of Administrative Services for the biennium 2000-2001 (UNEP/GC.20/INF/5); and draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives: revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme; functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization; functioning of specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme; implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; establishment of a regional

seas programme for the East Central Pacific; coral reefs; outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; and functioning of the Ombudsman Unit (UNEP/GC.20/L.5); the Committee of Permanent Representatives also submitted additional draft decisions: report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services; report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1998-1999 and proposals for 2000-2001; proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001; stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme; management of trust funds and counterpart contributions; the cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions; Mercure satellite communications system; freshwater; biosafety; support to Africa; further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals; promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs; and international action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on management of trust funds and counterpart contributions (UNEP/GC.20/25); the report of the Executive Director on the cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions (UNEP/GC.20/26); report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (UNEP/GC.20/20); the note of the Executive Director containing the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and his comments on Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997 (UNEP/GC.20/24); the note of the Executive Director to circulate the report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the accounts of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1997 (UNEP/GC.20/INF/6); the note of the Executive Director to submit the status of implementation of the recommendation of the Board of Auditors in its report on the accounts of the United Nations environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1997 (UNEP/GC.20/INF/7); the report of the Executive Director on Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and Revision of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.20/27); the note of the Executive Director to circulate the revised legislative and financial texts regarding the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Fund (UNEP/GC.20/INF/12).

Cluster 6. Global Environment Facility

20. The item was taken up by the Committee at its 5th meeting, on 3 February 1999. In its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the action plan on complementarity and additionality between United Nations Environment Programme's GEF activities and its regular programme (UNEP/GC.20/44).

21. The item was introduced by the Executive Coordinator of the UNEP/GEF Secretariat. At the meeting the Committee heard statements by Canada, China, Egypt (on behalf of the group of African countries), Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia and the United States of America.

22. The Chairman's summary of points raised during the discussion on the above clusters is annexed to the present report.

Action by the Council

23. On the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Governing Council, at the 9th plenary meeting of the session, on 4 February 1999, adopted a number of decisions under this item (decisions 20/20 to 20/41). The text of those decisions is contained in annex I to the present proceedings, and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above.

IX. PROVISIONAL AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

24. At the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council took up agenda item 10 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council). It had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the date and place of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council, together with a draft provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/GC.20/L.13).

25. It was agreed that the twenty-first session of the Governing Council would be held at Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 1999.

26. The draft provisional agenda, as proposed by the Bureau with an amendment proposed by the representative of Germany, was approved by the Council.

27. The text of the decision, as adopted by the Council is contained on page 113 of annex I below, while the comments made at the time of adoption are reflected in chapter II above.

X. OTHER MATTERS

Sixth meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety and the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

28. At the 4th plenary meeting of the session, on 2 February, the representative of Colombia said that he had received confirmation from his Government that the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety and the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, scheduled to be held in Cartagena from 14 to 23 February 1999, would take place as planned, despite the consequences of the disastrous earthquake that had recently struck his country.

Message from the Governing Council to the World Economic Forum

29. At the 5th plenary meeting of the session, the President read out a message from the Council to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The Council took note of the text of the message for transmission to the Forum. The text of the message is contained in annex IV to the present proceedings.

Election of members of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials

30. At its 11th meeting, on 5 February 1999, the Council elected the members of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials. The process of election is recorded in chapter II above, and the full decision is contained on pages ? and ? below.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

31. The present proceedings were adopted by the Council at the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, on the basis of the draft proceedings circulated as document UNEP/GC.20/L.11 and Add.1, and the report of the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.20/L.12), which had been adopted by the Committee at its 7th meeting, on 3 February 1999, on the basis of document UNEP/GC.20/CW/L.1 and Add. 1 and 2, on the understanding that the Secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with the finalization of the report on the last part of the Committee's proceedings.

XII. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

1. At the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Council heard closing statements from the President of the Council, the Executive Director of UNEP and representatives of the regional groups and the Group of 77 and China.

2. Following those statements and the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the twentieth session of the Council closed at 8 p.m. on Friday, 5 February 1999.

Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION

Decision No.	Title	Date of Adoption	Page
20/1	Global Environment Outlook	4 February 1999	51
20/2	Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories	4 February 1999	52
20/3	Programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law beyond the year 2000	3 February 1999	52
20/4	Promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters	4 February 1999	53
20/5	Reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information	4 February 1999	54
20/6	Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building	5 February 1999	55
20/7	Global Environment Facility	5 February 1999	56
20/8	Further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies	5 February 1999	58
20/9	The role of women in environment and development	5 February 1999	59
20/10	Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa	5 February 1999	60
20/11	Support for cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme through the regional offices for West Asia and Africa	5 February 1999	62
20/12	Implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system	5 February 1999	63
20/13	Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and system-wide strategy in the field of the environment	5 February 1999	63

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20/14	Report on the work of subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council	4 February 1999	64
20/15	Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme	4 February 1999	65
20/16	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and nineteenth special session, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme	3 February 1999	65
20/17	Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlement	5 February 1999	65
20/18	Environmental conventions	4 February 1999	68
	A. Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment	4 February 1999	68
	B. Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and in providing programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions	5 February 1999	69
20/19	Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session	5 February 1999	71
	A. Oceans and seas	5 February 1999	72
	B. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	5 February 1999	74
	C. Sustainable tourism	5 February 1999	75
	D. Small island developing States	5 February 1999	76
	E. Changing production and consumption patterns	5 February 1999	77
20/23	Chemicals management	4 February 1999	82

Decision No.	Title	Date of Adoption	Page
20/24	International action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument	4 February 1999	82
20/25	Freshwater	4 February 1999	83
20/26	Biosafety	4 February 1999	85
20/27	Support to Africa	4 February 1999	86
20/28	Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs	4 February 1999	88
20/29	Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services	4 February 1999	90
20/30	Mercure satellite communications system	4 February 1999	91
20/31	Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001	4 February 1999	93
20/32	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1998-1999 and proposals for 2000-2001	4 February 1999	99
20/33	Stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme	4 February 1999	100
20/34	Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions	4 February 1999	103
20/35	The cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions	4 February 1999	108
20/36	Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997	4 February 1999	109
20/37	Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme	4 February 1999	109

Decision No.	Title	Date of Adoption	Page
20/38	Report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services	4 February 1999	110
20/39	Functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization	4 February 1999	110
20/40	Functioning of specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme	4 February 1999	111
20/41	Functioning of the Ombudsman Unit	4 February 1999	111

Decision No.	Title	Date of Adoption	Page
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	Membership of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials	5 February 1999	114

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20/1. Global Environment Outlook

The Governing Council,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Outlook process, 1/

1. Notes with appreciation the broad participatory approach undertaken to prepare the second Global Environment Outlook report;

2. Urges Governments and the Executive Director to take into account the findings and recommendations of the second Global Environment Outlook report in the development and implementation of their environmental assessment, management actions, policies and programmes;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session a Global Environment Outlook user profile and qualitative analysis of the actual use of the first and second Global Environment Outlook reports and the Global Environment Outlook process, together with a proposal for an optimal frequency and production schedule for future Global Environment Outlook and related reports;

4. Requests the Executive Director to produce, in close collaboration with Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, and collaborating and associated centres and experts, a third Global Environment Outlook report in the form of a "30 Years After Stockholm" report, to be published in 2002, following the full participatory Global Environment Outlook approach;

5. Requests the Executive Director to actively collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the World Resources Institute and other relevant institutions in the preparation of the next report in the World Resources series, to be published in December 2000, which will focus on global ecosystems condition and trends and promoting the concept of a comprehensive science-based assessment of the world's ecosystems, and to simultaneously produce an expert report on policy issues and responses to changes in the ecosystems dealt with in the 2000 World Resources report;

6. Urges major actors in data compilation and in global report production, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Statistical Office, the United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the World Resources Institute, to collaborate in the production and use of a common data and knowledge base, comprising indicators, models, scenarios and expert systems, in order to avoid duplication, save costs and ensure that global reports are mutually supportive. Each agency would thus approach sustainable development from its particular perspective, while taking advantage of the information in the other reports to get a complete picture of sustainable development.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

1/ UNEP/GC.20/3.

20/2. Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/11 of 18 June 1987, 15/8 of 25 May 1989, 16/13 of 31 May 1991, 17/31 of 21 May 1993, 18/11 of 26 May 1995 and 19/8 of 7 February 1997, on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, 2/

1. Welcomes the activities which the United Nations Environment Programme is undertaking in association with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including those in the Palestinian Authority;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue participating in the activities of the multilateral working groups of the Middle East Peace Process, as well as in those of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, in order to ensure that environmental concerns are given due priority;

3. Expresses its concern regarding the continuing environmental degradation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including those in the Palestinian Authority;

4. Requests the Executive Director to prepare a comprehensive report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including those in the Palestinian Authority, in keeping with the above-mentioned decisions of the Governing Council, and requests him to present the report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/3. Programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law beyond the year 2000

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law beyond the year 2000, 3/

2/ UNEP/GC.20/4.

3/ UNEP/GC.20/5.

1. Takes note with appreciation of the progress made in the further implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s, 4/ including the recently concluded study on dispute avoidance and dispute settlement in international environmental law; 5/

2. Requests the Executive Director to undertake a process for the preparation of a new programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law, in consultation with Governments and relevant organizations, and, as part of that process, to convene in the year 2000 a meeting of senior government officials expert in environmental law ;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to continue to use the current Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law as strategic guidance for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental law until a new programme is adopted by the Council and, in that connection, authorizes him to assist, upon request, Governments and organizations in developing international environmental agreements;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to assist, upon request, developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening national environmental legislation and institutions;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the implementation of the present decision to the Council at its twenty-first session.

6th meeting
3 February 1999

20/4. Promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 6/ as well as chapters 23-32 of Agenda 21, 7/

4/ Governing council decision 17/25 of 21 May 1993, annex.

5/ UNEP/GC.20/INF/16.

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 93.I.8 and corrigenda), Vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

7/ Ibid., annex II.

Affirming its commitment to promoting access to information and participation of all concerned citizens at the relevant levels,

Taking note of the various activities at the national and regional levels to promote enhanced participation by the public and major groups, including the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, 8/

Recalling also programme area G (Environmental awareness, education, information and public participation) of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s, 4/

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, 9/

1. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments and relevant international organizations, to seek appropriate ways of building capacity in and enhancing access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters;

2. Requests the Executive Director to study, in this regard, various models of national legislation, policies and guidelines;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the outcome of the above-mentioned activities to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/5. Reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information, 10/

1. Takes note of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme/INFOTERRA Advisory Committee on the reform of the global environmental information exchange network, as contained in the Washington Statement of the Advisory Committee 11/ and summarized in the report of the Executive Director;

8/ ECE/COP/43.

9/ UNEP/GC.20/45.

10/ UNEP/GC.20/46.

11/ UNEP/GC.20/INF/17.

2. Underscores the importance of the public-right-to-know principle, a role which is inextricably linked with public participation in environmental decision-making;

3. Notes the new role of INFOTERRA as the United Nations Environment Programme's global advocate of the public-right-to-know principle to be carried out through a new structure governing the future operations of INFOTERRA;

4. Further notes the need to secure the participation of a diverse range of stakeholders drawn from government, non-governmental organizations, academia, centres of excellence, professional bodies and business enterprises in a partnership arrangement aimed at providing an integrated environmental information service at the national level, and encourages Governments to establish these partnerships under a formal agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. Recognizes the important synergy between the revitalized INFOTERRA and a new assessment strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for the purpose of facilitating the flow of information between the organization and its partners;

6. Requests the Executive Director to develop, in close cooperation with relevant partners, a concrete plan for establishing a restructured INFOTERRA;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to consult with Governments on the appropriateness of launching in the year 2000 the United Nations Environment Programme's revitalized INFOTERRA at a global conference of senior government officials and representatives of relevant organizations expert in the field of environmental information services and to seek extrabudgetary resources for it;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/6. Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building, 12/

12/ UNEP/GC.20/6.

Underscoring that it is essential in institution-building aiming at sustainable development to enhance access to environmental information held by public authorities and participation by all relevant sectors of the society, including the public, in the environmental-decision-making process, in accordance with relevant legislation or arrangements, and urging Governments to do so,

Recognizing the importance of developing environmental laws and regulations as well as judicial and administrative procedures for legal redress and remedy of actions negatively affecting the environment,

1. Urges Governments to develop, as appropriate, such environmental laws and regulations, as well as judicial and administrative procedures;

2. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the secretariat to provide policy and advisory services, in particular technical, legal and policy advice, in key areas of institution-building to Governments and regional and subregional institutions dealing with environmental matters, with particular attention to the areas of concentration contained in paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, with a view to improving access by the public to information on environmental matters and environmental policy instruments;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation with Governments, other relevant organizations and entities, including the secretariats of international environmental conventions, in activities related to policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building in order to ensure that such services are provided to Governments and relevant institutions in a coherent and coordinated manner in order to avoid duplication of efforts and economize on scarce resources.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/7. Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility, 13/ as well as the suggested action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the and Global Environment Facility and its programme of work, 14/

1. Welcomes the progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility, pursuant to Governing Council decision 19/12 of

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13/ UNEP/GC.20/8.

14/ UNEP/GC.20/44.

7 February 1997 and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 15/ as well as its decisions SS.V/6 and SS.V/7 of 22 May 1998;

2. Welcomes also the progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening inter-agency collaboration under the Global Environment Facility as evidenced by the increased role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in joint Global Environment Facility projects with the United Nations Development Programme and/or the World Bank;

3. Welcomes also the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme on joint collaboration in the Global Environment Facility cross-cutting area of land degradation;

4. Further welcomes the Executive Director's proposal aimed at establishing strategic partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, in addition to the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility, 16/ as well as the suggested action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility and its programme of work;

5. Invites the Council of Global Environment Facility, in considering the issue of additionality and complementarity of the core activities of the United Nations Environment Programme with its interventions within the Global Environment Facility, to fully take into account its environmental mandate as contained in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

6. Invites also the Council of the Global Environment Facility to support the efforts of the Executive Director aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Facility in accordance with its mandate as contained in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility; 17/

7. Requests the Executive Director to submit the suggested action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility activities and its programme of work to the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its thirteenth meeting to be held in Washington D.C. from 5 to 7 May 1999;

15/ Governing Council decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997, annex.

16/ UNEP/GC.20/8, para 60.

17/ UNEP/GCSS.IV/2, annex.

8. Requests also the Executive Director to present to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session a report on the progress made in the implementation of present decision.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/8. Further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies 18/

1. Expresses its satisfaction with the constructive collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in strengthening the ability of the United Nations to assist countries, particularly developing countries, affected by environmental emergencies;

2. Requests the Executive Director to further enhance such collaboration by strengthening the activities of the Joint Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies;

3. Also requests the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to further focus and strengthen the contribution of its environmental expertise to the coordination of United Nations system-wide responses to natural disasters caused by natural phenomena or natural phenomena coupled with effects of human actions, with a view to providing United Nations coordinated assistance to countries, particularly developing countries, affected by such natural disasters;

4. Invites Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes to continue to cooperate with the Joint Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in its efforts to provide assistance to countries, in particular developing countries, facing environmental emergencies, including natural disasters;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to develop appropriate linkages between the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on environmental emergencies and its overall work on environmental assessment and early warning;

6. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies;

18/ UNEP/GC.20/9.

7. Also requests the Executive Director to report to Governments on the progress made in the activities of the Joint Environment Unit.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/9. The role of women in environment and development

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995, relating to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women 19/at the national and international levels,

Recalling also its decisions 17/4 of 21 May 1993, 18/6 of 26 May 1995 and 19/7 of 7 February 1997 on the United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development, 20/

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development and the progress towards the fulfilment of the commitments made by the United Nations Environment Programme to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women, and the decision of the Executive Director to re-focus the institutional arrangements for gender within the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme by hiring a staff member at the Professional level to undertake the actions related to the role of women in environment and development;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue efforts to fulfil the ten commitments made by the United Nations Environment Programme at the Fourth World Conference on Women as its contribution to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women by the year 2000, and to carry out more activities in the programme of work targeted at women;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to strengthen efforts to assist Governments to empower women to participate in the decision-making process on environmental matters and to provide them with information on the environment;

19/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), resolution 1, annex II.

20/ UNEP/GC.20/10.

4. Further requests the Executive Director to extend the network of gender focal points to cover all Governments, in particular those of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition and also relevant global non-governmental organizations.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/10. Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/17 of February 1997 and SS.V/7 of 22 May 1998,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director 21/ on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (hereinafter "the Convention") (UNEP/GC.20/11), 22/

Recognizing that land degradation is a major problem for many countries, particularly those in Africa,

Recalling that support for Africa is a priority for the United Nations Environment Programme in its work programme for 2000-2001,

Recalling the experience of the United Nations Environment Programme in developing desertification assessments and databases and its two editions of the World Atlas of Desertification; its research initiatives and cooperative studies with the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment of the International Council of Scientific Unions, its co-sponsorship of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research and the numerous joint programmes and studies on desertification with various centres within the Consultative Group and with other United Nations bodies,

Considering the concerns regarding the vulnerability of African soils to the impacts of climate change due to land degradation and desertification as expressed by the Special Consultation of African Ministerial Conference on Environment on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, held in Nairobi from 19 to 23 October 1998 23/,

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21/ UNEP/GC.20/11.

22/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

23/ UNEP/AMCEN/CONSULT.1/5, para. 3 (a).

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in assisting countries affected by land degradation, in strengthening cooperation and collaboration with other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and other organizations in the field of land degradation, in developing land-degradation projects as they relate to the focal areas of the Global Environment Facility and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Development Programme in the context of these activities, and in assisting Governments in the implementation of the Convention,

1. Requests the Executive Director to maintain the capability of the United Nations Environment Programme to respond to global land-degradation issues so as to serve its role as Task Manager for chapter 12 of Agenda 21, 7/ and in supporting the Conference of Parties of the Convention, in particular its Committee on Science and Technology in the assessment and monitoring of desertification and the enhancement of the scientific and technological knowledge base on land degradation;

2. Requests the Executive Director to give the appropriate priority to promoting support action to combat desertification within the framework of the implementation of the work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with Governing Council decision SS.V/7;

3. Requests the Executive Director to assist, upon their request, African countries in the preparation, development and strengthening of action plans made in accordance with articles 9 and 11 of the Convention;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue efforts to secure and enhance support from the Global Environment Facility for providing assistance to countries to carry out activities related to land degradation in view of the interlinkages between land degradation and the focal areas of the Global Environment Facility;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to strengthen the coordination and collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and other organizations concerned in providing assistance to countries in mitigating land degradation and the implementation of the Convention;

6. Requests the Executive Director to pursue his efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration in the field of combating desertification;

7. Further requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with other bodies, particularly the Secretariat of the Convention, the Global Mechanism under the Convention and the other implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations, to assist countries affected by land degradation in the preparation of land-degradation projects consistent with their national action programmes for financing by the Global Environment Facility and other multilateral and bilateral agencies;

8. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate initiatives to involve the United Nations Environment Programme in the activities of the Global Mechanism of the Convention and in particular its Facilitation Committee;

9. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on this matter to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/11. Support for cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme through the regional offices for West Asia and Africa

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993, in which it requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to continue making efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme in a coordinated manner with other intergovernmental organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions,

Recalling also its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991, in which it requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to promote the identification of ways and means to facilitate access by and transfer of technology to developing countries in respect of cleaner production methods, techniques and technologies,

Recalling also its decision 18/39 of 26 May 1995, requesting support of the goals and aims of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the Regional Office for West Asia,

Recalling further Agenda 21, 7/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 34 on the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, and chapter 38, on international institutional arrangements, as well as section I, thereof, on cooperation and implementation at the regional and subregional levels,

Noting also paragraph 4 (b) of the Nairobi Declaration, 15/ concerning regionalization and decentralization through the increased involvement and participation of regional ministerial councils, complementary to the Programme's headquarters in Nairobi,

Noting the possibilities of improving and activating environmental activities in the Arab region, within the framework of the priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Expressing its appreciation of the results achieved owing to the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment,

Requests the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the goals and aims of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the regional offices for West Asia and Africa and to establish an appropriate mechanism with a view to supporting the implementation and coordination of regional programmes in the Arab region.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/12. Implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system

The Governing Council,

Recalling the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading environment authority that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, as defined by Agenda 21 7/ and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 24/ adopted the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, and in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 15/ adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session,

1. Invites the Executive Director, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and in recognition of the catalytic nature of its work, to intensify work on the integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development into United Nations programmes;

2. Underscores the need for Governments to positively consider providing extrabudgetary resources in order to further promote the practical application of methodologies for such integration;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress achieved to the Governing Council at its next session.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

24/ General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

20/13. Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Noting the report of the Executive Director on developments related to the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment, 25/

Further noting that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has proposed to establish an Environmental Management Group, after consulting with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

Invites the Executive Director, in light of the forthcoming decision of the Secretary-General on the establishment of an Environmental Management Group, to consider the need for an inter-agency coordination group and system-wide strategy in the field of environment and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/14. Report on the work of subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997 and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme annexed thereto,

Recalling also its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997 on governance of the United Nations Environment Programme in which the Governing Council decided, inter alia, that the governance structure established by that decision shall be reviewed by the Council at its twenty-first session, with a view to assessing its effectiveness taking into account any relevant results of the reform process of the United Nations system,

Takes note of the reports and the work of the Committee of Permanent Representative and the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates. 26/

9th meeting
4 February 1999

25/ UNEP/GC.20/7.

26/ UNEP/GC.20/12 and UNEP/GC.20/INF/14.

20/15. Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/29 B of 4 April 1997,

1. Takes note of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives concerning the assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme; 27/

2. Welcomes the recommendations concerning the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme contained therein, and urges the Executive Director to take these recommendations into account;

3. Requests the Executive Director to keep the Committee of the Permanent Representatives informed of the progress made regarding the recommendations.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/16. Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and nineteenth special session, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and at its nineteenth special session, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme, 28/ and the actions indicated therein.

6th meeting
3 February 1999

20/17. Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and Human Settlements

The Governing Council,

Taking into account the fact that the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on environment and human settlements 29/ is under

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27/ UNEP/GC.20/13.

28/ UNEP/GC.20/14.

29/ A/53/463.

consideration in the General Assembly and also taking into account the request of the Secretary-General to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide its views thereon,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 15/ adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, which emphasizes that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Recalling its decisions 19/32 of 4 April 1997, on the governance of the United Nations Environment Programme, and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, on revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which it decided, inter alia, to review the ongoing reform of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the distinction made by the Secretary-General between recommendations requiring action at the Secretariat level from those requiring decisions and measures at the intergovernmental level,

1. Responds to the request of the Secretary-General to the Governing Council and decides to express its views as follows:

The Governing Council:

(a) Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on Environment and Human Settlements submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, in which he puts forth the recommendations of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements on reforming and strengthening United Nations activities in the field of environment and human settlements, and expresses its appreciation for the comprehensive and forward-looking recommendations of the Task Force under the chairmanship of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) Notes with appreciation the intention of the President of the General Assembly that the Assembly, at its current session, consider in a fully open and transparent manner, as soon as possible, the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements; 30/

(c) Takes note of the recommendations intended for action by intergovernmental bodies relating to linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions; intergovernmental forums; and involvement of major groups, as outlined in part IV of the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements;

30/ See UNEP/GC.20/INF/22.

(d) Welcomes the general thrust of the actions proposed to be taken by the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme at the Secretariat level relating to: inter-agency coordination; linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions; the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Office at Nairobi; information, monitoring, assessment and early warning; involvement of major groups; and future initiatives, as outlined in part III of the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements;

(e) Expresses its support for the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an Environmental Management Group for the coordination of the environmental and human-settlements activities of the United Nations system, and encourages the Secretary-General to undertake consultations with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to develop its scope, appropriate criteria for membership and working methods in a flexible and cost-effective manner for its expeditious establishment;

(f) Welcomes the proposals for the facilitation and support by the United Nations Environment Programme of enhanced coordination amongst the bureaux and secretariats of environment and environment-related conventions, taking into account the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomy of the conferences of the parties to these conventions, and in this regard notes its decision 20/18 B of 4 February 1999, on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and in providing programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions;

(g) Expresses its support for the proposal of the Secretary-General that an annual ministerial-level global environmental forum be instituted and that regular biennial sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme constitute that forum in the years that the Council meets, and that in alternate years the forum should take the form of the special session of the Governing Council, meeting in different regions as a ministerial-level forum in which participants can gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment, and keeping in mind the need to retain the effective and efficient functioning of the governance mechanisms of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as possible financial implications;

(h) Welcomes the recommendations of the Secretary-General on future action-oriented agendas of the Governing Council and the structuring and timing of its meetings in order to enhance coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development and the conferences of the parties to environmental and environment-related conventions;

(i) Takes note of the proposal concerning universal membership of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the on-going debate in this regard;

(j) Agrees with the proposal of the Secretary-General that, particularly in the light of the recommendation to establish an annual ministerial-level forum, the future role of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials of the United Nations Environment Programme should be considered;

(k) Welcomes the proposals of the Secretary-General on further enhancing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing environmental advocacy, analysis and advice in shaping the priorities and programmes of the Global Environment Facility consistent with the United Nations Environment Programme's envisaged role in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, 17/ and in this regard notes its decision 20/7 of 5 February 1999, on the Global Environment Facility;

(l) Welcomes the recommendations concerning the facilitation of coherent approaches to the need to constructively engage non-governmental organizations and civil society in the work of the United Nations, in the light of the experiences gained in the Habitat II and Commission on Sustainable Development processes;

(m) Expresses the hope that its views will assist in further deliberations and an expeditious resolution of this important matter in the competent forums;

2. Requests the Executive Director to convey to the Secretary-General the views of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme as contained in the present decision.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/18. Environmental conventions

A. Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 31/

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the report, on its behalf, together with any comments made by delegations thereon as well as further information which the secretariat of the United Nations Environment

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31/ UNEP/GC.20/18.

Programme might receive by 31 May 1999, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX);

3. Calls on States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to do so;

4. Calls also on States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme with information on new conventions and protocols in the field of the environment as well as information on any changes to the status of the existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

B. Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and in providing programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 47/190 of 22 December 1992, on the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 47/191 of 22 December 1992, on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and S-19/2 of 28 June 1997, on the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

Bearing in mind also Governing Council decisions 19/1 of 7 February 1997, on the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, on revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions, 32/ programmatic support of the United Nations Environment Programme to multilateral environmental conventions, 33/ and promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs, 34/

Mindful of the importance of promoting interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto and conscious of the desirability of mitigating fragmentation of international environmental policy-making,

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32/ UNEP/GC.20/16.

33/ UNEP/GC.20/17.

34/ UNEP/GC.20/40.

I. PROMOTION OF COLLABORATION AMONG MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

1. Calls upon Governments that are parties to the multilateral environmental conventions and their conferences of the parties to give due consideration to ways and means to strengthen coherent interlinkages among relevant conventions, including the importance for harmonized procedures for the national reporting envisaged thereunder;

2. Emphasizes that the United Nations Environment Programme should intensify its catalytic role to stimulate and support collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto with a view to the strengthening of coherent interlinkages among such conventions and processes in line with the decisions of their respective conferences of the parties;

3. Affirms that the United Nations Environment Programme should:

(a) Promote, in cooperation with their respective governing bodies, the strengthening of coherent interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto;

(b) Enhance, in cooperation with their respective governing bodies, the linkages among the various scientific and information monitoring processes that underpin multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto in order to provide a bridge between science, information and policy; and

(c) Provide continued substantive support to multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto in accordance with their provisions and decisions of their conferences of the parties;

4. Urges the Executive Director to consult multilateral environmental conventions, through their secretariats, with a view to identifying areas of common interest and opportunities for synergy in line with the decisions taken under these conventions;

5. Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with the respective convention secretariats, to support, and coordinate as appropriate, collaboration and promote interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions in line with the decisions of their respective conferences of the parties;

II. PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT TO MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

6. Requests the Executive Director to explore with the multilateral environmental conventions, through their secretariats, areas of cooperation and suitable modalities in support of the implementation of the programmes of work of the respective conventions, taking into account the scientific and technical expertise that the United Nations Environment Programme can contribute, in line with the decisions of their respective conferences of the parties;

7. Encourages the conferences of parties to multilateral environmental conventions to support the establishment of programmatic interlinkages between the programmes of work of their conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme;

8. Requests the Executive Director, upon request, to make available technical, scientific and legal expertise of the United Nations Environment Programme to assist multilateral environmental conventions in achieving their objectives;

9. Also requests the Executive Director, upon request, to further assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening their legal and other capacities in implementing multilateral environmental conventions;

10. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/19. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.V/3 of 22 May 1998, on the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session,

Recalling further its decision 18/7 of 26 May 1995, on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 24/ in which the United Nations General Assembly called on the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support to the Commission on Sustainable Development, inter alia, in the form of scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice on global environmental issues,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in connection with the themes on the agenda of seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 35/

1. Requests the Executive Director to take steps to ensure that in the future the Governing Council has the information required to prepare the views of the United Nations Environment Programme for all sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development scheduled before its own next session;

35/ UNEP/GC.20/19 and Add.1 and 2 and UNEP/GC.20/42.

2. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, through the Commission's ad hoc inter-sessional working groups, the following decisions and recommendations, together with the reports of the Executive Director and the comments made thereon at the twentieth session of the Governing Council.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

A. Oceans and seas

The Governing Council

1. Stresses the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the regional seas programme as its central mechanism for implementation of its activities relevant to chapter 17 of Agenda 21, 7/ with a focus on the promotion of policy-relevant activities and implementation in cooperation with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and, in this context, invites the Executive Director to identify specific activities for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the following areas, taking into account the ongoing work of other international organizations:

(a) Ensuring that environmental considerations are fully taken into account in the activities aimed at promoting integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and associated river basins and their living aquatic resources;

(b) Promoting the formulation, adoption and implementation of appropriate technical, institutional, administrative and legal measures contributing to improved protection of marine and coastal environment, including the rational use and conservation of their resources. This work should include the application of the guidelines set forth in the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities 36/ for the environmentally sustainable management and use of coastal and marine resources, including their associated drainage basins as basic water-management units;

(c) Facilitating the assessment of the state of the marine and coastal environment, including the trends of changes in this environment and identification of important emerging issues;

(d) Promoting measures for improved protection of endangered aquatic species, fragile ecosystems, habitats and other ecologically sensitive areas, and for restoration of damaged systems and areas, as well as pursuing the establishment of new and the expansion of existing specially protected areas;

(e) Enhancing the Programme's collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other organizations in the environmental aspects of sustainable fisheries and fostering closer

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36/ UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

collaboration with mechanisms and organizations in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, dealing with fisheries, including aquaculture;

(f) Strengthening and expanding its research, monitoring, observation and assessment activities, particularly in addressing critical uncertainties related to climate change as it may affect the sustainable management of the marine environment;

(g) Preparing and convening, possibly in 2000, a joint high-level meeting of the representatives of the governing bodies of the regional components of the programme to review overall progress and to determine ways and means of enhancing its contribution to the global protection of marine and coastal environment through regional and interregional cooperation;

(h) Exploring the need and possibility for an expansion of the regional seas programme to geographical areas not currently covered;

(i) Enhancing linkages and coordination with the secretariats of regional agreements and organizations not under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Endorses the enhanced cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and other international organizations in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative and decides to give priority to an assessment of the experiences to date in implementation of International Coral Reef Initiative programme during its twenty-first session;

3. Encourages the member agencies of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection to review their terms of reference, composition and methods of work, as a means of enhancing its status as a source of independent, scientific advice on coastal and oceans issues;

4. Stresses the need for reliable, accessible and relevant monitoring, and welcomes the Global International Waters Assessment, which will provide for the assessment of the world's large marine ecosystems;

5. Calls on the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session to promote significantly enhanced coordination and improved institutional arrangements within the United Nations system on activities concerning the marine environment, especially through the work of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Subcommittee of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and make the work of the Subcommittee transparent to Government.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

B. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director 37/ on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, 36/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/189 of 16 December 1996, particularly the recommendation that Governments intensify their efforts, within the context of their representation in governing bodies of other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, to ensure these agencies and organizations have the mandate and the needed financial and human resources to undertake their responsibilities as lead agencies to coordinate the development of the clearing-house mechanism of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities for specific pollutant source categories, as defined in resolution 51/189,

1. Stresses the need for urgent measures aimed at expediting progress in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and, in this context:

(a) Urges the Executive Director to expeditiously complete the establishment of the Hague Coordination Office;

(b) Calls upon Governments to intensify their efforts within the context of their representation in the governing bodies of other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system to ensure these agencies and organizations have the mandate and the needed financial and human resources to undertake their responsibilities as lead agencies to coordinate the development of the clearing-house mechanism of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as defined in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/189;

(c) Recommends that the Commission on Sustainable Development should consider how to promote the early implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as one of the components of implementing chapter 17 of Agenda 21 7/ and to address recommendations to the appropriate United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes;

(d) Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations, to explore the feasibility for the United Nations Environment Programme to convene, by the year 2000, a global conference to address sewage as a major land-based source of pollution affecting human and ecosystem health;

37/ UNEP/GC.20/32 and Corr.1.

(e) Taking into account other ongoing process, decides to undertake the first intergovernmental review of the status of implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the year 2001, and invites the Executive Director to organize, by the end of 1999, an expert group meeting, with participation of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in order to facilitate the preparations for such a review;

(f) Recommends the creation of technical working groups in regional seas programmes to facilitate the exchange of information on successful approaches;

(g) Calls on the Executive Director to improve the effective functioning of the Steering Committee of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

(h) Recommends national and regional partnership meetings, based on well developed national and/or regional programmes of action for the purpose of creating partnerships in implementing with donor organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, local government and all other stakeholders;

2. Further endorses its decision 19/14 A of 7 February 1997 to revitalize the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, strengthen the regional seas programme and coastal-zone-management approach, as called for in the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

C. Sustainable tourism

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the importance of tourism as a lever for economic development, especially in developing countries,

1. Notes with appreciation the initiatives taken thus far by the Executive Director in developing the work programme on sustainable tourism, in cooperation with relevant industry associations and other international organizations, in particular the World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Further development of the work programme should be guided by the relevant decisions of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

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2. Requests the Executive Director to further develop, through a consultative process involving Governments and other relevant partners, guiding principles for sustainable tourism in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and taking into account the draft principles on sustainable tourism contained in the annex to the report of the Executive Director, 38/ and urge those partners to support this process;

3. Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with relevant partners including the private sector, to continue the preparations of voluntary initiatives and codes of conduct for the tourism sector;

4. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to call on governments to integrate consideration of sustainable tourism in their national sustainable development strategies, and into relevant multilateral environmental conventions.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

D. Small island developing States

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the special problems and requirements of small island developing States,

Supporting the goals of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 39/

Welcoming the reports of the regional intergovernmental meetings held by small islands developing States in 1998, and inviting the Commission on Sustainable Development to give consideration to the outcomes of the meetings,

1. Invites the Executive Director to:

(a) Promote and facilitate integrated island management programmes, including economic and legal instruments, administrative structures and management procedures, for the improved protection and use of the resources of small island developing states, encompassing the totality of the terrestrial environment, coastline and adjacent exclusive economic zones;

(b) Strengthen and expand research, monitoring and assessment activities addressed to small island developing states, including the social and economic factors affecting their terrestrial and aquatic environment, as

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38/ UNEP/GC.20/19/Add.2.

39/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap.I., resolution 1, annex II.

well as relevant information for development of a "vulnerability index" for small island developing States, including the potential impacts of climate change;

(c) Promote the transfer of, and facilitate access to, scientific information and advice on technologies, including "soft" environmental management technologies, such as policies, practices, management systems, regulatory frameworks and economic instruments appropriate for the needs of small island developing States;

(d) Prepare guidelines and programmes for waste minimization, reduction, treatment and disposal applicable under the constraints of small island developing States;

(e) Promote the development and application of principles for sustainable tourism;

(f) Promote research and assessment regarding the sustainable management and use of the terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity of small island developing States;

(g) Promote public awareness and education activities, including the use of local non-governmental organizations, regarding the need for the sustainable development and use of the natural resources of small island developing States;

2. Urges the Executive Director to complete work on state-of-the-environment assessments in time for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the review of the Barbados Programme of Action.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

E. Changing production and consumption patterns

The Governing Council

1. Notes with appreciation the activities so far undertaken by the secretariat at the request of Governing Council to promote the use of cleaner and safer production approaches; 40/

2. Further notes with appreciation the current work aimed at integrating environmental criteria into economic and financial decision-making, especially as it concerns adoption of cleaner technologies, and to further elaborates mechanisms and procedures for financing cleaner production investments;

40/ See UNEP/GC.20/42.

3. Encourages Governments, industries and institutions to continue to make efforts to promote and implement preventative strategies such as cleaner production, green productivity, and pollution prevention as preferred options to address environmental problems, and invites those that have not already done so to sign the International Declaration on Cleaner Production presented on 29 September 1998 at the Fifth High-level Seminar on Cleaner Production, held in the Republic of Korea, and to take steps to implement the Declaration fully;

4. Welcomes the Human Development Report 1998 41/ of the United Nations Development Programme as an important contribution to the work on sustainable production and consumption;

5. Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development to develop, in partnership with the Youth Advisory Council to the United Nations Environment Programme, a sustainable consumption strategy for youth:

(a) To assess the role of youth in the promotion of sustainable consumption;

(b) By engaging the Youth Advisory Council in a global process of youth consultation on these topics;

(c) To identify means to support initiatives for the promotion of youth sustainable consumption;

6. Further encourages the Executive Director to develop and undertake activities in promoting more sustainable production and consumption patterns in industry and in the wider community in particular to assist developing countries. For this purpose, due consideration should be given to, inter alia, international cooperation in environmentally sound technologies, financial transfers and the use of voluntary initiatives and market-based incentives;

7. Stresses that the United Nations Environment Programme has an important role to play in ensuring that the overriding issue of sustainable production and consumption patterns is duly taken into account within the different themes under the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

8. Requests the Executive Director to further elaborate draft guidelines for the assessment and evaluation of environmentally sound technologies, including guidelines for exporters of potentially hazardous or outdated technologies, and submit these to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session for consideration.

41/ Published for the United Nations Development Programme by the Oxford University Press, New York, 1998.

9. Welcomes the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in relation to the marketing and advertising sector in addressing sustainable consumption.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/20. Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director on the establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific, 42/

1. Endorses the actions taken thus far in facilitating establishment of a proposed regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific region, and takes note of the wide support by the concerned Governments for the draft Action Plan and corresponding legal instrument;

2. Invites the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama to endorse the proposed Meeting of High-Level Government-Designated Experts to Review the Proposals for a Convention and Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the East Central Pacific region.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/21. Coral reefs

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/19 of 7 February 1997, by which the Council urged the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to play an active and leading role in the development, implementation and coordination of regional activities under the International Coral Reef Initiative,

1. Endorses the proposed collaborative activities of the United Nations Environment Programme with agencies and organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system, for protection and conservation of coral reef ecosystems;

2. Requests the Executive Director to carry out an assessment of the experience of the United Nations Environment Programme to date in the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative programme and

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42/ UNEP/GC.20/35.

consider how the role of the United Nations Environment Programme can be strengthened in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat, for discussion by the Council at its twenty-first session;

3. Endorses enhanced cooperation within the United Nations system, particularly with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank;

4. Requests the Executive Director to circulate the Renewed Call to action of the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium, held in Townsville, Australia, from 23 to 26 November 1998, to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-first session;

5. Requests the Executive Director, in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat and the International Coral Reef Initiative Coordination and Planning Committee, to continue to seek funding for the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative's activities and programmes;

6. Welcomes the progress in establishing the global coral reef monitoring network and, in light of the 1997-1998 widespread coral bleaching, endorses enhanced cooperation between the global coral reef monitoring network's co-sponsors, the United Nations Environment Programme, World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Bank, to implement the global coral reef monitoring network to support conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems;

7. Recognizes the strong role of the regional seas programmes as implementing and coordinating mechanisms for the International Coral Reef Initiative action on the regional scale and endorses continued and strengthened action by the regional seas programmes in the area of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/22. Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade 43/

43/ UNEP/GC.20/39 and Corr.1).

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21 7/ and its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 A of 7 February 1997 and SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998,

1. Welcomes the adoption of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; 44/

2. Calls upon States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to bringing it into force as soon as possible;

3. Recommends that the General Assembly endorses the institutional linkage between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, as called for by the Convention and authorized by the Governing Council in its decision SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, through which the Executive Director provides secretariat services jointly with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

4. Authorizes the Executive Director, together with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to convene such further sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, until the date of the opening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, as are necessary to oversee the operation of the interim prior informed consent procedure 45/ and to prepare for and service the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties takes place;

5. Calls upon States and regional economic integration organizations to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the United Nations Environment Programme in order to support the interim arrangements and the operation of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of Parties takes place, and to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the further work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

6. Calls upon also States and regional economic integration organizations with more advanced programmes for regulating chemicals to provide technical assistance, including training, to others in developing their infrastructure and capacities to manage chemicals throughout their life-cycle, particularly in view of the urgent need for their participation in the effective operation of the Convention once it enters into force;

44/ UNEP/FAO/PIC/CONF/5, annex III.

45/ The voluntary prior informed consent procedure as amended in accordance with the resolution on interim arrangements adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (UNEP/FAO/PIC/CONF/5, annex I, resolution 1) and decision SS.V/5 of the Governing Council.

7. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on the progress in the work of the secretariat arising from the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade as well as the present decision;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/23. Chemicals management

The Governing Council,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on chemicals management, 46/

1. Notes with appreciation the actions taken pursuant to those elements of Governing Council decision 19/13 endorsed by the Governing Council in February 1997;

2. Invites the Executive Director to consider preparing for a general policy discussion, if deemed appropriate, on chemicals management, in accordance with decision 19/13, at the Governing Council session in the year 2001.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/24. International action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emission and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument, 47/

46/ UNEP/GC.20/37, UNEP/GC.20/39 and Corr.1, UNEP/GC.20/41, and

1. Welcomes the progress in the preparation of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain organic pollutants as well as the implementation of the immediate actions called for in paragraph 13 of its decision 19/13 C of 7 February 1997;

2. Invites the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Organic Pollutants to continue its work with a view to the conclusion of a legally binding instrument by the year 2000;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue taking the actions as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 19/13 C, including the immediate actions identified in paragraph 13 of that decision;

4. Calls upon Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to consider providing financial contributions for further negotiations of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain organic pollutants, particularly through the "POPs Club";

5. Encourages Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and in-kind contributions for supporting the implementation of the immediate actions as called for in paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/13 C;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/25. Freshwater

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 D of 7 February 1997 and SS.V/4 of 22 May 1998,

1. Takes note of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

2. Also takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on freshwater issues; 48/

3. Further takes note of the Freshwater Strategy contained in the annex to the report of the Executive Director as a proposed framework for the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to address freshwater issues and carry out activities in the field of freshwater;

4. Stresses the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the environmental aspect of sustainable development and integrated management of freshwater;

5. Welcomes the focus of the freshwater work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the environmental aspects of assessment and sustainable integrated management in accordance with national needs;

6. Requests the Executive Director to intensify collaborative activities with Governments, upon request, as well as agencies and organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system, in the environmental aspects of freshwater consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the priorities outlined in Governing Council decisions 19/14 D and SS.V/4;

7. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, and taking into account national priorities, should place a high priority on the identification of expertise and knowledge resident in countries relating to freshwater quality, the establishment of partnership between those countries and countries in need of that expertise and knowledge and the promotion of intergovernmental collaboration;

8. Requests the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for freshwater quality arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme to date, in line with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 15/ and to propose policy options for debate and endorsement by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

9. Requests tne Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of freshwater, takes into account the work carried out by other United Nations agencies and international organizations as well as by national Governments in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;

10. Requests the Executive Director to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for freshwater management through the International Environmental Technology Centre;

11. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-first session, on the progress in the implementation of the present decision and in related environmental issues.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/26. Biosafety

The Governing Council,

Anticipating the outcome of the process towards the sixth and final meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 14 to 19 February 1999,

Recognizing the possibility that the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be determining a work programme on biosafety pending entry into force of the biosafety protocol,

Bearing in mind the need of many developing countries to build regulatory capacity with respect to biosafety,

Noting with satisfaction the effective development and implementation on an interim basis of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology, 49/

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of its decision 19/16 of 7 February 1997, on biosafety, 50/

1. Requests the Executive Director to support, in the context of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 51/ and any work programme that may be developed, appropriate development of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology in view of rapid changes and developments in the field of modern technology, in close collaboration with the relevant international organizations;

2. Requests also the Executive Director to assist Governments in implementing the forthcoming biosafety protocol in a manner as agreed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to continue mobilizing resources, including through the Global Environment Facility, for support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to prepare effective national biosafety frameworks in the context of the proposed biosafety protocol, in collaboration with the Secretariat of, and consistent with the obligations of the parties to, the Convention on Biological Diversity (under article 8 (g) of the Convention), taking into account the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology;

49/ (UNEP/Global Consultation/Biosafety/4, annex II).

50/ UNEP/GC.20/33.

51/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre).

4. Further requests the Executive Director to continue promoting greater awareness of biosafety issues and subregional or regional cooperation in the enhancement of capacities for the exchange and supply of information on safety in biotechnology and training;

5. Notes with appreciation the Global Environment Facility to support the Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project 52/ and, taking into account the necessary evaluation and review of that Project, invites the Facility to extend such support in the field of capacity-building for issues related to biosafety to other developing countries and countries with economies in transition in accordance with decisions II/5, III/5 and III/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. Requests the Executive Director to support as appropriate, the establishment and further strengthening of subregional and regional biosafety risk-assessment capabilities in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant organizations.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/27. Support to Africa

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on support to Africa, 53/

Recalling its decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998 in which support to Africa was identified as a priority for the United Nations Environment Programme,

Aware that African countries are vulnerable to the environmental problems of global concern, such as climate change, land degradation and desertification, oceans, biological diversity, sound management of freshwater and wastes management, and the need for intensified efforts in assisting them in combatting such problems as they pursue their environmental goals,

Conscious that the lack of adequate national environmental legislation and relevant institutional arrangements and means for enforcing regulatory measures is one of the major problems encountered by African countries in effectively addressing environmental challenges,

Affirming the urgent need to strengthen the technical capacities of the representatives of African countries to the conferences of parties of the global environmental conventions and their subsidiary bodies, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 54/ the

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52/ See UNEP/GC.20/33, paras. 11-17.

53/ UNEP/GC.20/34.

54/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

Convention on Biological Diversity 51/ and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, 21/

I. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

1. Notes with appreciation the Special Consultation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Nairobi in October 1998 55/ to consider a common African position at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and supporting role of the United Nations Environment Programme in this regard;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue providing support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment with a view to facilitating the integration of global and African environmental agendas;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to enhance the coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in particular the Regional Office for Africa, in promoting programmatic coherence among activities in Africa carried out in connection with the implementation of regional and global conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, as well as in enhancing the participation of African countries in international environmental negotiations;

4. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with African regional and subregional organizations, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, in order to effectively address environmental issues of common interest in a cost-efficient manner;

II. ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue providing, upon request, assistance to African countries, in particular in the areas identified as the core elements of the focused mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 15/ and taking into account the interlinkages of various sectoral environmental issues, such as those among freshwater, forestry and land degradation;

6. Requests the Executive Director to continue providing African countries with technical, legal and policy advice for the development of national legislation and relevant institutions dealing with environmental matters;

7. Requests the Executive Director to assist African countries in promoting environmentally sound technologies, and in promoting African national capacities in this field;

55/ See UNEP/AMCEN CONSULT.1/5

8. Further requests the Executive Director to explore ways and means for the United Nations Environment Programme to effectively assist African countries in formulating Global Environment Facility projects, with the aim of increasing the African share in projects funded by Facility implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme;

9. Requests the Executive Director, in collaboration with the Global Environmental Facility as appropriate, to continue strengthening the capacity of African countries through the provision of training and relevant information as may enhance their effective participation in the development and implementation of global environmental conventions, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

III. PRIORITIES

10. Requests the Executive Director, in implementing the priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme in Africa, to give high priority within its focused mandate to assisting African countries in implementing their commitments under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

11. Also requests the Executive Director to further strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental assessment and monitoring in Africa with a view to assisting African countries;

12. Further requests the Executive Director in revising the work programme for 1999 to take into account the priorities set forth in the present decision;

13. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/28. Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind its decisions 19/1 of 7 February 1997, on the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, on revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs, 56/

Mindful of the importance of the scientific and policy interlinkages among global environmental issues, and their relevance to the human needs of food, shelter, health and clean water,

Noting with appreciation the constructive collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank in this initiative, as well as the financial support provided by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration,

1. Welcomes the report Protecting Our Planet, Securing Our Future: Linkages Among Global Environmental Issues and Human Needs; 57/

2. Urges Governments to take into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of the report in the preparation of their national environment and sustainable development strategies and plans;

3. Underscores that sustainable development depends on a healthy local, national, regional and global environment, and that the United Nations Environment Programme has a major role to play in promoting actions at all levels that are designed to sustain the continued adequate functioning of ecological systems;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to address global environmental issues within a more holistic and synergistic policy framework so as to improve the scientific and policy interlinkages among global environmental issues and the ways in which they influence the ability of countries to meet basic human needs, taking special note of the scientific and policy linkages among global and regional environmental conventions and other relevant international agreements;

5. Requests the Executive Director to recognize that effective policy implementation that links global environmental issues and sustainable development requires:

(a) Scientific understanding of the nature of the links among environmental issues and their relationships to meeting human needs, to facilitate the balancing of competing needs and the identification of strategies that capture as many benefits as possible;

(b) Identification of innovative combinations of policies that are effective and cost-efficient and that encourage the public and private sectors to work together;

56/ UNEP/GC.20/40.

57/ Robert T. Watson and others, Protecting Our Planet, Securing Our Future: Linkages Among Global Environmental Issues and Human Needs (United Nations Environment Programme, United States National Aeronauts and Space Administration, World Bank, November 1998).

(c) Political will and public commitment to seriously address global environmental issues, including the setting of realistic goals and the identification of creative paths for achieving them; and

(d) Improved coordination among the national and international institutions charged with developing and encouraging adoption of policies and measures to meet human needs, without undermining the environmental foundation for development;

7. Urges the World Bank and other international, regional and national organizations concerned to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme in this endeavour;

8. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the conclusions and recommendations of the report to the governing bodies of global environment conventions and relevant international agreements.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/29. Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services, 58/

1. Requests the Executive Director to further assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to help enhance their capacities to integrate environmental considerations with development planning and decision-making;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to provide such assistance through the further development of training in, and application of, environmental impact assessment and valuation, methodologies for natural-resource accounting and relevant economic instruments at the national level; such assistance may be provided in connection with the implementation by the above-mentioned countries of multilateral environmental agreements and should be designed to reflect the socio-economic and development priorities as well as needs and capacities of individual countries;

3. Requests also the Executive Director to continue to examine policy options for effectively addressing the challenges of integrating environmental considerations with trade and trade policies, with a view to assisting Governments in their efforts to develop mutually supportive trade

58/ UNEP/GC.20/43.

and environment policies. For this purpose, due consideration should be given, inter alia, to international cooperation in environmentally sound technologies, financial transfers and the use of market-based incentives;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to improve understanding of the environmental effects of trade with a view to enabling them to develop and implement policies that could integrate environmental considerations with trade policies;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to continue to carry out analytical studies, in close collaboration with the environmental conventions for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat services, on, inter alia, the effectiveness of market-based incentives in achieving the objectives of those conventions and the relationship between trade measures contained in the conventions and international trade policy;

6. Requests the Executive Director to continue to cooperate actively with other international organizations dealing with the relationship between the environment and trade, in particular the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

7. Also requests the Executive Director, to continue to collaborate with the private sector, in particular industry and the financial service sector, with a view to enhancing their contribution to sustainable development activities and programmes through the integration of environmental considerations into the internal and external operations of these institutions;

8. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the capacities of the secretariat to carry out the tasks identified in the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/30. Mercure satellite communications system

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 17/38 of 21 May 1993, 18/47 of 25 May 1995 and 19/30 of 7 February 1997,

1. Welcomes the report of the Executive Director on the Mercure satellite telecommunications system, 59/ which contains an indicative review and cost-benefit analysis of the system;

2. Notes that the Mercure satellite telecommunications system was formally handed over to the United Nations Environment Programme by the European Space Agency in November 1997, and that the project budget of the European Space Agency will be closed on 31 March 1999;

59/ UNEP/GC.20/30.

3. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Norway for its generous contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme to establish and maintain the UNEPnet Implementation Centre in Arendal, Norway essential to the successful operation and maintenance of Mercure and UNEPnet, as well as Austria, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, which have provided technical and financial contributions to the development of the project;

4. Notes with appreciation that all earth stations of the Mercure system are fully operational, and are providing substantive improvements in the telecommunication services for the United Nations Environment Programme at reduced costs, as well as facilitating the transfer of and access to environmental data;

5. Encourages the Executive Director to further enhance the cost-effectiveness of the Mercure network by achieving optimal cost integration with the United Nations global telecommunications system, particularly with regard to the availability of voice telephony and the sharing of all Mercure services with United Nations agencies in Nairobi;

6. Requests the Government of Kenya, in consultation with the Executive Director, as a matter of urgency and with regard to further stabilizing and strengthening Nairobi as a United Nations location, to facilitate the implementation of voice telephony on Mercure to the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations agencies in Nairobi;

7. Calls upon the Executive Director to examine means for improving communications between the secretariat and permanent missions in Nairobi, with the assistance of the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

8. Encourages the Executive Director to continue to make the UNEPnet/Mercure system available for utilization by the United Nations telecommunications system and other organizations in the United Nations system on a cost-sharing basis at sites where technically and economically feasible;

9. Encourages the Executive Director to expand co-funded efforts with partner organizations of the United Nations Environment Programme for discussion on the continued implementation, operation and utilization of UNEPnet/Mercure;

10. Authorizes the Executive Director to engage in collaborative programmes with other donors to provide for discussions on the expansion of the existing UNEPnet/Mercure infrastructure through extrabudgetary support;

11. Notes that, despite the impression conveyed in the reports of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the United Nations Environment Programme did have the authority to sign the agreement on the Mercure project with the European Space Agency on behalf of the United Nations, and that the Mercure system does provide cost-effective services and positive benefits to the United Nations Environment Programme, and urges the Executive Director to bring the content of his report on the Mercure satellite communications system to the attention of the said bodies, with a view to rectification of those errors;

12. Requests the Executive Director to ensure a comprehensive review and cost-benefit analysis of the UNEPnet/Mercure system, including the UNEPnet Implementation Centre, is presented to the Governing Council at its next session and is brought to the attention of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors;

13. Encourages countries with relevant environmental data and information assets of value for improved environmental monitoring and management to make them readily accessible to all countries, especially developing countries, for ease of delivery through this initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/31. Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001

The Governing Council,

I. RESOURCES OF THE ENVIRONMENT FUND

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme budget, revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001, 60/ the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative Budgetary Questions 61/ and the comments of the Executive Director on the observations and recommendations in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative Budgetary Questions, 62/

1. Notes with appreciation the efforts made to improve transparency in the budget preparation and requests the Executive Director to further harmonize the budget presentation with other United Nations bodies, especially the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Drug Control Programme;

2. Notes with great concern the deterioration of the environment at the global level despite some achievements in various areas, and strongly stresses the need for urgent and immediate action;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the Environment Fund at a higher level in the biennium 1998-1999 and appeals to all Governments to contribute

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60/ UNEP/GC.20/22 and Add.1.

61/ UNEP/GC.20/21.

62/ UNEP/GC.20/47.

to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, either in cash or in kind, in order for it to implement fully its programme;

4. Notes with concern that the level of contributions to the Environment Fund received and pledged for the biennium 1998-1999, as at 30 November 1998, falls short of the Governing Council's estimates by a significant margin. This means that the programme of work approved by the Governing Council for the biennium 1998-1999 at the level of $75 million can be only implemented if Governments come forward with the additional funding needed to adequately implement it;

5. Reconfirms that, in conformity with Agenda 21 7/ and in order to be able to exercise the functions assigned to it, the United Nations Environment Programme requires additional human and financial resources;

6. Recognizes the need to broaden the base of contributions to include all Members of the United Nations, especially countries that have developed a greater capacity to pay;

7. Urges all Governments to make efforts to pay their contributions prior to the year to which the contributions relate or, at the latest, at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

8. Urges all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate and, if possible, two years in advance;

9. Approves the revised appropriations of Fund resources in 1998-1999 of 25.83 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget and reconfirms the appropriation of 75 million dollars for Fund programme activities and 5 million dollars for the Fund programme reserve;

10. Approves an appropriation of Fund resources in 2000-2001 of 14.23 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget, 100 million dollars for Fund programme activities and 5 million dollars for the Fund programme reserve, recognizing that this will require substantial additional funding, as available, compared to the authorized appropriation for the biennium 1998-1999;

11. Authorizes the Executive Director, based on the approval of the Fund programme appropriation by the Governing Council, to approve costed workplans for direct implementation of specific subprogrammes and activities;

12. Authorizes the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 2002-2003 a programme of work consisting of Fund programme activities of 120 million dollars and requests the Executive Director to include in each separate draft decision to be presented in relation to the 2002-2003 programme of work, a cost estimate for the activities proposed;

13. Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million dollars for Fund programme activities in the biennium 2002-2003;

14. Notes the steps taken by the Executive Director to increase the financial reserve to its present level of 10 million dollars and urges the Executive Director to further increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the bienniums 1998-1999 and 2000-2001;

15. Approves that the outstanding pledges in the period 1992-1995 as listed in paragraph 61 of the report of the Executive Director 63/ not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;

II. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COSTS BUDGET

Recalling paragraph 9 of its decision 19/22, part II, of 7 February 1997, by which the Governing Council approved an appropriation of 27.5 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1998-1999 and paragraph 7 of its decision SS.V/1, part I, of 22 May 1998, by which it confirmed the 1998-1999 management and administrative support costs budget appropriation of 27.5 million dollars, subject to the continued feasibility of the approved 1998-1999 programme of 75 million dollars,

Further recalling paragraphs 8 and 9 of its decision SS.V/1, part I, by which the Governing Council urged the Executive Director to manage the 1998-1999 management and administrative support costs budget appropriation with the utmost economy and to achieve greater efficiencies in those offices funded from the management and administrative support costs budget and also requested the Executive Director further to reduce 1998-1999 management and administrative support cost expenditures, bearing in mind Governing Council decision 18/42 of 25 May 1995, should contributions to the Environment Fund fall short of the level required to implement the approved 1998-1999 programme of 75 million dollars,

Recalling paragraph 4 of its decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, by which it welcomed the intention of the Executive Director to realize the "environmental dividend" from the streamlining and rationalization of the administrative arrangements for the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation and gender balance, as well as the interests of developing countries,

1. Notes with appreciation that the anticipated 1998 management and administrative support costs expenditures, subject to the final closure of 1998 accounts, have been at the level of 11.65 million dollars and that the efficiency measures implemented by the Executive Director resulted in savings of administrative expenditures of approximately 1.65 million dollars;

63/ UNEP/GC.20/22.

2. Approves a revised appropriation of 25.83 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1998-1999, with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

3. Approves the proposed changes in the approved staffing tables for the bienniums 1998-1999 and 2000-2001, as set out in the Executive Director's report;

4. Approves the revised format and structure of the management and administrative support costs budget, as set out in the proposed budget for 2000-2001;

5. Approves an appropriation of 14.23 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 2000-2001 with the distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

6. Notes that the proposed appropriation of Environment Fund resources in the biennium 2000-2001 of 14.23 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget is provisional upon an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi of approximately 2 million dollars in order to strengthen administrative services provided to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the biennium 2000-2001;

7. Notes with concern the large discrepancy in the amount of funding provided from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in relation that provided to the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Geneva, and appeals to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to positively consider a substantial increase in the regular budget allocation to the administration of the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the context of the regular budget for the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001;

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK: REVISED APPROPRIATION FOR FUND PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IN THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 AND APPROPRIATION FOR FUND PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IN THE BIENNIUM 2000-2001

Recalling again paragraph 38.21 of Agenda 21, 7/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, reconfirming the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and stating that its Governing Council should continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective,

Recalling paragraph 11 of its decision SS.V/1 of 22 May 1998, by which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to reexamine the 1998-1999 programme approved by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session in the light of the core elements of the focused mandate of the Nairobi

Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme 15/ and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twentieth session;

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the same decision by which the Executive Director was authorized to prepare a 2000-2001 programme of work making use of the priorities of the Nairobi Declaration, that establishes a direct and realistic link between the volume of activities to be undertaken and available financing, to be presented to the Governing Council at its twentieth session,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001,

1. Approves an appropriation of 100 million dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2000-2001;

2. Decides to apportion the appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001 as follows:

1.	Environmental assessment and early warning	
1.1	Environmental assessment and reporting	10,700,000
1.2	Systems and networks for data/information generation, analysis, observing and early warning	8,856,000
1.3	Environmental science and research	320,000
1.4	Access to environmental information and public participation in decision-making	4,124,000
	Subtotal	**24,000,000**
2.	Policy development and law	
2.1	Policy analysis, review and development	2,708,000
2.2	Legal, economic and other instruments	7,727,311
2.3	Policy coordination and inter-agency affairs	1,888,689
2.4	Resource mobilization	676,000
	Subtotal	**13,000,000**
3.	Policy implementation	
3.1	Technical cooperation	5,490,000
3.2	Coordination of emergency response	1,510,000
	Subtotal	**7,000,000**
4.	Technology, industry and economics	
4.1	Environmental technologies and technology	1,370,000
4.2	Production and consumption	6,040,000
4.3	Chemicals	8,200,000
4.4	Energy and OzonAction	1,900,000
4.5	Economics and trade	3,347,000
4.6	Division office and regional officers	2,143,000
	Subtotal	**23,000,000**

5.	Regional cooperation and representation	
5.1	Regional policy, planning and servicing based at headquarters	2,730,000
5.2	Regional offices	17,770,000
	Africa	*3,160,000*
	Asia and the Pacific	*3,370,000*
	Europe	*3,900,000*
	Latin America and the Caribbean	*3,680,000*
	North America	*1,080,000*
	West Asia	*2,580,000*
	Subtotal	**20,500,000**
6.	Environmental conventions	
6.1	Policy and programme linkages	1,350,000
6.2	Internal coordination for development of new conventions/agreements	100,000
6.3	Coordination of provision of UNEP programmatic	5,325,000
	Subtotal	**6,775,000**
7.	Communication and public information	
7.1	Spokesperson's functions	480,000
7.2	Media services	1,820,000
7.3	Public affairs	1,035,000
7.4	Publications and writing/editorial services	1,700,000
7.5	Public query-response and library services	690,000
	Subtotal	**5,725,000**
	Grand total	**100,000,000**

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to adjust on a pro rata basis the programme-activities level of expenditure to bring it in line with possible variations in income compared to the authorized level of expenditure;

4. Reconfirms the authority of the Executive Director to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by up to 20 per cent;

5. Requests the Executive Director to provide financial details of work programmes to member Governments in accordance with article V of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the United Nations Environment Programme, if so requested;

6. Requests the Executive Director to take into account all relevant decisions of the Governing Council on priorities for United Nations Environment Programme activities taken at its twentieth session, in further developing and implementing the environment programme for the biennium 2000-2001, taking account also of funding from other sources;

7. Further to article VI of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the United Nations Environment Programme, requests the Executive Director to make available to Member States, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work;

8. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To prepare the first draft budget and work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council in order to allow Member States to comment on it; and

(b) To submit a finalized draft budget and work programme for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

9. Requests the Executive Director, in preparing future budgets and programmes of work, to include corresponding details of the previous budget and programme of work to allow comparison of patterns of activity;

10. Approves the programmatic restructuring set out in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001 consisting of seven subprogrammes and twenty-six subprogramme elements which integrates all elements previously contained in the programme activity centres, as established in earlier decisions of the Governing Council, and, as a result, notes the dissolution of the following programme activity centres: Dryland Ecosystems and Desertification Control, Environmental Law and Institutions, Global Environment Monitoring System, Industry and Environment, International Register for Potentially Toxic Chemicals, INFOTERRA, Global Resource Information Database and Oceans and Coastal Areas.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/32. Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1998-1999 and proposals for 2000-2001

The Governing Council

Notes with appreciation the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme, the revised requirements for 1998-1999 and the proposed requirements for 2000-2001, 61/ and the comments of the Executive Director on the observations and recommendations in the report of the Advisory Committee 62/ and requests the Executive Director to address all recommendations and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/33. Stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/23 of 7 February 1997,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme, 64/

1. Reaffirms, as stated in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 15/ that the United Nations Environment Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources in order to operationalize its mandate, and reiterates the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the competitive ability of the Programme to attract funding;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts undertaken to define the outline of the strategy for stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme contained in the annex to the present decision as a basis for the development of such a strategy;

3. Requests the Executive Director to initiate a process of consultations with Governments and other relevant parties, directly and through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, in order to fully develop a strategy for stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Requests the Executive Director to take initial action on the strategy prior to its finalization through the consultative process and its approval by the Governing Council;

5. Calls on Governments and other relevant parties to provide financial and other resources to the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the above-mentioned consultative process and the resulting strategy;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

64/ UNEP/GC.20/23.

Annex

OUTLINE OF A STRATEGY CONCERNING STABLE, ADEQUATE AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

1. General principles

(a) Need for UNEP to have stable, adequate and predictable financial resources in order to operationalize the focused mandate as contained in the Nairobi Declaration.

(b) Recognition of the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in UNEP's programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the competitive ability of UNEP to attract funding.

(c) Need for continued reform of UNEP to enhance its programme performance, which should be matched by political will among Governments and other donors to provide UNEP with stable, adequate and predictable financial resources.

(d) Emphasis on transparent procedures in considering the issue of stable, adequate and predictable funding.

(e) Required action should not create additional administrative burden either to UNEP or Governments and other donors.

2. Modalities for linking programme performance, impact and effectiveness of UNEP with its funding

(a) UNEP to prepare a programme of work on the basis of realistic expectations of the forthcoming contributions under the given political and economic environment.

(b) UNEP to intensify communication of its achievements to Governments and other donors.

(c) Objective indicators be developed, subject to regular review, for assessment of programme performance, impact and effectiveness of UNEP as a means for identifying the funding needs.

(d) International platforms be regularly convened for policy dialogue between UNEP and Governments and other donors to assess the programme performance, impact and effectiveness of UNEP and to match that assessment with the level of funding.

3. Stable funding

(a) Broader donor base. In addition to Governments, funding also by foundations, non-governmental organizations and other private-sector parties.

(b) Innovative modalities of funding. Options might include: agreed contributions; contributions to be determined on the basis of consultations; some form of increased burden-sharing among contributors.

(c) Ways to offset or minimize the effects of exchange-rate fluctuations.

4. Adequate funding

(a) Recognition of the linkage between adequacy of financial resources, or the level of funding, and programme performance, impact and effectiveness.

(b) Modalities to link the budget with outputs achieved, with a view to identifying the adequacy of funding.

5. Predictable funding

(a) Timely payment of contributions. A format might be agreed to ensure that the payment is made in the first quarter or first half of the year, which would enable early allocations and hence better planning.

(b) UNEP should be notified in advance of the amount of the contributions concerned and when to expect the payment.

(c) Need to have a flexible and practical mechanism concerning the modality of payment that takes into account the administrative and budgetary procedure, such as the budget cycle, and relevant legislation in countries.

(d) Feasibility of multi-year pledges. A possible scenario might be a firm pledge for the first (current) year, with the announcement of indicative contributions for the second year and tentative contributions for the third year (or following years).

(e) Use of formal mechanisms to ensure the predictability of contributions, such as memoranda of understanding between the prospective contributors and UNEP concerning the amount of contributions and schedule of payment.

(f) A mechanism to be established to provide Governments with an early warning of forthcoming shortfalls in financial resources of UNEP so that remedial action could be taken.

6. Monitoring

Modalities for monitoring and measuring the programme performance, impact and effectiveness of the outputs of UNEP's programme activities, in order to promote, inter alia, a more transparent decision-making process with regard to the funding of UNEP.

20/34. Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds, 65/

The Governing Council,

1. Notes and approves the establishment of the following trust funds since its nineteenth session:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) The General Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies, which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;

(ii) The General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the UNEP Financial Services Initiative on the Environment, which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

(iii) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), and Related Information Exchange and Technical Assistance, which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;

(iv) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Work of the UNEP High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;

(v) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation for and Negotiation of an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument for International Action on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Related Information Exchange and Technical Assistance Activities, which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;

(vi) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Implementation of Governing Council Decisions in the North American Region, which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the UNEPnet Implementation Centre (financed by the Government of Norway), which was established in 1997 and with an expiry date of 31 December 2002;

(ii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland), which was established in 1997 and with an expiry date of 31 December 1999;

65/ UNEP/GC.20/25.

(iii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Production of an Information Video Booklet on Working Safely with Hydrocarbons in Domestic and Small-scale Commercial Refrigeration (financed by the Government of Germany), which was established in 1998 and with an expiry date of 31 December 1998;

(iv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which was established in 1998 and with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;

(v) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of UNEP's Implementation of Enabling and Pioneering Environmental Projects (financed by the Government of Germany), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

(vi) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Meetings of the UNEP High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials (financed by the Government of the United States of America), which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;

(vii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Cleaner Production Investments in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Norway), which was established in 1998 and with an expiry date of 31 December 2001;

(viii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of Activities Funded by the United Nations Fund for International Partnership (UNFIP), which was established 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

(ix) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of Meetings of Subcommittees or Working Groups on Programmatic and Administrative Reform of UNEP (financed by the Government of the United States of America), which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;

(x) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Senior Programme Officer to the UNEP/GPA Office in The Hague (financed by the Government of France), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

(xi) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Professional Officers to Ozone Secretariat (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

(xii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the UNEP Executive Directors's Implementation of Personnel Reforms in the UNEP Secretariat (financed by the Government of the United States of America), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

(xiii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of an Associate Programme Officer to UNEP/New York Office (financed by the Government of Switzerland), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

(xiv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Nordic Governments through the Government of Sweden), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date;

(xv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of an Executive Assistant of the Executive Director (financed by the Government of the United Kingdom), which was established in 1998 and with no fixed expiry date; and

(xvi) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Mining Expert (financed by the South African Chamber of Mines), which was established in 1997 and with no fixed expiry date;

2. Notes and approves the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) The General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), through 31 December 2000;

(ii) The Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, through 31 December 2004;

(iii) The Trust Fund to Assist Developing Counties and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Pasel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, through 31 December 2004;

(iv) The General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2001;

(v) The General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2001;

(vi) The General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2001;

(vii) The Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2000;

(viii) The Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2000;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds: the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 1999;

3. Approves the extension of the following trust funds subject to the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) The General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), through 31 December 2002;

(ii) The Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, through 31 December 2001;

(iii) The Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, through 31 December 2001;

(iv) The Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, through 31 December 2001;

(v) The Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, through 31 December 2001;

(vi) The Trust Fund for Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, through 31 December 2001;

(vii) The Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2004;

(viii) The General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of North-west Pacific Region, through 31 December 2001;

(ix) The Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2004;

(x) The Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, through 31 December 2001;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen the Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2001;

(ii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland), through 31 December 2001;

(iii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland), through 31 December 1999;

(iv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2001;

(v) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 2001;

(vi) The INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States of America), through 31 December 2000; and

(vii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Materials Management (financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 2000;

4. Notes and approves the closure of the following trust fund by the Executive Director: the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Short-term Experts to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Germany);

5. Notes and approves the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications before the twenty-first regular session of the Governing Council:

(a) General trust funds: the Regional Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden);

(ii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland);

(iii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery (financed by the Government of Germany);

(iv) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Organization of a Technology Transfer Workshop on the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol for French-speaking African Countries (financed by the Government of France);

(v) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Establishment of a GRID Centre in Arendal (financed by the Government of Norway);

(vi) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Production of an Information Video Booklet on Working Safely with Hydrocarbons in Domestic and Small-scale Commercial Refrigeration (financed by the Government of Germany);

(vii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage Caused by Conflict between Kuwait and Iraq;

(viii) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Managerial Innovation and Excellence (financed by the Government of the United States of America); and

(ix) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland).

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/35. The cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the cost of administering trust funds; 66/

2. Requests the Executive Director to implement appropriate actions directed towards reducing the cost of programme-support services provided to trust funds and related activities with a view to containing such cost within the programme support charges levied. These actions should include, inter alia:

(a) That the full 13 per cent support charge continues to be levied on all trust-fund expenditure and is also levied on directly related expenditure financed from voluntary additional contributions, such as counterpart contributions, in support of conventions and other trust-fund activities;

66/ UNEP/GC.20/26.

(b) To review the direct allocations provided to trust-fund-financed units, programmes and projects, as opposed to allocations provided to central administrative services, with a view to ensuring that trust-fund-financed units, programmes or projects do not incur a disproportionate burden on the programme-support charges levied;

(c) To ensure that the programme-support charges levied are not allocated towards activities of a programmatic nature, thereby decreasing the allocation available for provision of management and administrative services;

(d) To streamline and rationalize the provision of management and administrative services in an effort to continue decreasing related costs;

3. Requests the Executive Director to keep the issue under review and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on developments regarding the cost of administration of trust funds and related contributions and activities.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/36. Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997; 67/

2. Takes note also of the comments of the Executive Director on the observations of the Advisory Committee. 68/

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/37. Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the revision of the Financial Rules and the General Procedures Governing the Operation of the Environment Fund. 69/

9th meeting
4 February 1999

67/ UNEP/GC.20/27, paras. 3-8).

68/ UNEP/GC.20/24, paras. 9-15).

69/ UNEP/GC.20/27.

20/38. Report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, 70/

Takes note of the current status and ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/39. Functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization

The Governing Council

1. Welcomes the report of the Executive Director on the functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of Regionalization and decentralization; 71/

2. Takes note of the changes made by the Executive Director in the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices in order to strengthen regionalization and ensure that regional priorities are reflected in the core programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and that the Programme's global programme is reflected in the activities of the regional environmental forums and organizations;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to strengthen regionalization and decentralization, while maintaining the central coordinating role of the Programme's headquarters in Nairobi.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

70/ UNEP/GC.20/20.

71/ UNEP/GC.20/28.

20/40. Functioning of specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Executive Director on the functioning of specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme; 72/

2. Endorses the steps taken by the Executive Director to bring greater efficiency through synergies between the main units in the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme addressing technology transfer, environmental issues related to industrial and urban activities (and, in particular, production and use of chemicals), as well as of energy, and the related key economic and trade aspects;

3. Requests the Executive Director to give priority to issues of trade and environment, and to the promotion of cleaner production and transfer of environmentally sound technologies through these offices.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/41. Functioning of the Ombudsman Unit

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/42 of 25 May 1995, in which it approved the creation, upon a proposal of the Executive Director, the Ombudsman Unit, after two years of pilot experience from September 1993 onwards with that Unit,

Considering the importance for the United Nations Environment Programme of the tasks assigned to the Ombudsman Unit in the fields of mediation, enquiry, counselling, the provision of information, briefing and management review,

Taking into account the success encountered by the Ombudsman Unit since its inception, which proves it meets essential demands from personnel of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Underlining the honours received by the Ombudsman Unit when attributed the United Nations "UN21" award in July 1997 for "saving the Organization, the time, costs and disruption involved, in lengthy recourse procedures and appeals, and enhanced staff welfare",

Drawing attention in this respect to the observation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, contained in document A/51/810 of 27 February 1997, stating that the Ombudsman Unit appears to respond to a genuine need,

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72/ UNEP/GC.20/29.

Stressing the positive comments received in this respect by the Office of Internal Oversight Services upon the submission of the annual report of the Ombudsman Unit over 1995,

Noting with concern that paragraph 10 of Governing Council decision 18/42, by which the Council requested the Executive Director to report annually to the members of the Governing Council on the activities of the Ombudsman, including any comments of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on those activities, has not been fully adhered to,

Noting with equal concern that due to the non-submission for consideration by the Governing Council of the annual reports during 1995 and 1996, no execution has been given to paragraph 11 of decision 18/42, by which the Council, inter alia, decided to review the creation of the Ombudsman Unit at its nineteenth session,

Also noting that, under those circumstances, and without the involvement of the Governing Council, the Ombudsman Unit has not been provided with the necessary personnel and financial means for enabling it to effectively perform its responsibility,

Welcoming, however, the submission to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in September 1998, by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme of the report on the activities of the Ombudsman in 1997,

Considering the fact that other United Nations entities in Nairobi and their personnel would greatly benefit from the full range of services provided by the Ombudsman,

1. Fully endorses the increase in financial and personnel allocations to the Ombudsman Unit in the 2000-2001 biennial budget as proposed by the Executive Director;

2. Invites the Executive Director to submit to the members of the Governing Council all annual reports on the Ombudsman Unit still pending;

3. Invites further the Executive Director to extend the services of the Ombudsman Unit to other United Nations entities if so requested by them;

4. Requests the Executive Director to prepare, for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its first meeting after the twentieth session of the Governing Council, an evaluation report on the functioning of the Ombudsman Unit containing an analysis of and recommendations on its status, range of action, terms of reference and necessary financial and material means as well as personnel, giving particular attention to the issue of autonomy of the Ombudsman Unit;

5. Decides to review, at its twenty-first session, the operations of the Ombudsman Unit;

6. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Council at its twenty-first session all relevant information and reports regarding the Ombudsman Unit.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

Other decisions

Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council

1. At the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, to hold its twenty-first session at Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2001.

2. The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 4 February 2001, the day before the opening of the session.

3. The Council further approved the following provisional agenda for its twenty-first session:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

   (a) State of the environment;

   (b) Emerging policy issues;

   (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;

   (d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.

5. Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions.

6. Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions.

7. Contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

8. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.

9. Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-second session of the Council.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the session.

Membership of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials

At the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council elected the following States as members of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, in accordance with paragraph (b) of its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, China, Congo, Cuba, Denmark,* Finland,** France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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* For 2000.

** For 1999.

Annex II

REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

1. On Thursday, 4 February 1999, the Governing Council commenced its proceedings with the inauguration of the Memorial Garden at the Gigiri complex of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to commemorate the victims of the August 7 1998 bomb blasts at the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

2. At the inauguration ceremony, statements were made by Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, and Mr. Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya. Following those statements, Mr. Moi, Mr. Töpfer and Mr. László Miklós, President of the Governing Council, planted trees and Mr. Moi and Mr. Töpfer then proceeded to unveil the Memorial Garden plaque.

3. The Muungano Choir performed during the inauguration ceremony.

4. Following the inauguration ceremony, at its 7th plenary meeting, on 4 February 1999, the Governing Council commenced the high-level segment of the session and heard statements by ministers of environment and their representatives, as well as by other specially invited speakers.

5. The high-level segment was opened on 4 February 1999 by Mr. László Miklós, President of the Governing Council and Minister of Environment, Slovakia. Following that opening statement, the Muungano Choir gave a brief performance. The Council was then addressed by Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP. The full text of the Executive Director's statement was subsequently circulated under the symbol UNEP/GC.20/2/Add.2.

6. At the opening session of the high-level segment, the 7th plenary meeting of the session, the Council was addressed by Mr. Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya. Following the President's statement, the Council heard statements from Ms. Massoumeh Ebtekar, Vice-President and Head of the Department of the Environment, Islamic Republic of Iran; Mr. Jürgen Trittin, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany, on behalf of the European Union; Mr. Francis Nyenze, Minister for Environmental Conservation, Kenya; Ms. Julia Carabias Lillo, Minister of Environment, Natural resources and Fisheries, Mexico; and Mr. Jan Szyszko, Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry, Poland.

7. Following the opening session of the high-level segment, an informal luncheon consultation, hosted by the Executive Director, was held with ministers and heads of delegations to exchange views on emerging environmental issues and the revitalization of UNEP.

8. At the 8th plenary meeting of the session, the 2nd session of the high-level segment, on 4 February 1999, the Council heard statements from Mr. Suwit Khunkitti, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science, Technology and Environment, Thailand; Mr. Svend Auken, Minister for Environment and Energy, Denmark; Mr. Song Ruixiang, Vice-Minister, State Environmental Protection Administration, China; Mr. Souty Touré, Minister of

the Environment and the Protection of Nature, Senegal; His Royal Highness Prince Fahd Ben Abdulla Al Saud, Assistant Minister of Defence and Aviation Affairs, Saudi Arabia; Ms. Guro Fjellanger, Minister of Environment, Norway; Mr. Tuala Sale Tagaloa, Minister of Lands Survey, Environment and Tourism, Samoa, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States; Mr. Philippe Roch, Director, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape; Mr. Jan P. Pronk, Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Netherlands; Mr. Mohamed Ould Sid'Ahmed Lekhal, Minister of Rural Development and the Environment, Mauritania; Mr. Edward Lowassa, Minister of State, United Republic of Tanzania; Mr. Pál Pepó, Minister of Environment, Hungary; Mr. Philemon Malima, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Namibia; Mr. Babu Lal Marandi, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, India; Mr. Kjell Larsson, Minister for the Environment, Sweden; Mr. Mohamed Haroun Kafe, State Minister of Environment and Tourism, Sudan; Mr. Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Mr. Nandimitra Ekayanake, Minister of Forestry and Environment, Sri Lanka. Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry, Chief Executive Officer of GEF, also addressed the Council.

9. At the 10th plenary meeting of the session, the 3rd session of the high-level segment, on 5 February 1999, the Council heard statements from Mr. Hiroshi Yoshida, Counsellor, Environment Agency, Japan; Mr. E.T. Chindori-Chininga, Deputy Minister of Mines, Environment and Tourism, Zimbabwe; Mr. Boumetswe Mokgothu, Assistant Minister of Local Government, Lands and Housing, Botswana; Mr. Ahmed Iraqi, Secretary of State for Environment, Morocco; Mr. Robert Slater, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment, Canada; Mr. Michael Metelits, Director, Office of Environment Policy, Department of State, United States of America; Mr. Henry Muganwa Kajura, Minister of Water, Lands and Environment, Uganda; Mr. Milos Kuzvart, Minister of Environment, Czech Republic; Mr. Cletus Avoka, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Ghana; Mr. Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Australia; Mr. Bernard Fautaier, Minister for International Cooperation, Monaco; and Mr. Sylvain A. Akindes, Minister of Environment, Housing and Town Planning, Benin.

10. At the 3rd session of the high-level segment, the Council also heard statements from representatives of the following countries speaking on behalf of their ministers: Argentina, Finland, Nigeria and Zambia.

11. In addition, at the 3rd session of the high-level segment, the Council heard a statement from Mr. Bagher Asadi, Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

12. At the 11th plenary meeting of the session, the 4th session of the high-level segment, on 5 February 1999, the Council heard statements from: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Cuba, France, Holy See, Iceland, Jamaica, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

13. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire submitted a statement in writing to the secretariat.

14. In addition, at the 4th session of the high-level segment, the Council heard a statements from representatives of the World Bank, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe the Secretariat of the United Nations

Framework Cc "ention on Climate Change, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Community, the World Trade Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme.

15. At the same meeting, a statement was also delivered on behalf of the civil-society organizations attending the session.

Annex III

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

General discussion

1. Many representatives expressed appreciation for the Executive Director's clear and comprehensive presentation of the programme and budget.

2. Of those countries which made statements, most supported the proposed budget and considered it to be a realistic and even minimum basis for implementing the tasks given to UNEP under the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP and subsequent decisions of the Governing Council at its fifth special session. Some representatives were of the view that the proposed budget was overly optimistic and one representative questioned its transparency. Several representatives considered that the proposed programme and budget did not clearly reflect the geographic priority to be given to the African region.

3. In answer to one representative's question as to whether the General Assembly's adoption of one or more recommendations made by the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements would have consequences for the proposed programme and budget, the Executive Director stated that the integrated approach used in the proposed programme and budget should provide sufficient flexibility to respond to any additional issues that might arise. He added that the adoption of Task Force recommendations might also have implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

Cluster 3. Technology, industry and economics

4. Many representatives voiced overall support for the subprogramme in this cluster, in particular for the Chemicals Unit. In the opinion of many representatives, UNEP's work on chemicals should be strengthened. Several representatives expressed the view that coherence and efficiency could be enhanced through administrative measures, rather than through an umbrella legal instrument. One representative believed that increased support should be provided for the Osaka Industry and Environment Technology Centre (IETC). Another representative expressed support for the specialized offices. Many representatives urged the Executive Director to ensure adequate and predictable funding for the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiating Committees on persistent organic pollutants.

Cluster 4. Regional cooperation and Representation, Environmental Conventions, Communications and Public Information

5. Many representatives supported the formation of an office of coordination for regionalization and also supported the general idea of regionalization and decentralization. Caution was mentioned concerning possible overlap with other regional bodies, i.e. with ECE in Europe. Concerns with staffing and funding were also raised. The representative of Benin repeated his Government's earlier offer to host the regional office for Africa.

6. Another issue raised was whether Regional Seas conventions would be placed under Conventions or under Regional cooperation, with some representatives expressing a strong preference that the Regional Seas conventions be shown on the organizational chart under the Conventions division.

7. Many representatives welcomed UNEP's new direction in collaboration with convention secretariats and its catalytic role. The streamlining of functions was noted. Caution was voiced by some representatives about the need for the Conventions division to remain focused and not overreach itself, especially considering funding constraints.

8. The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) was noted as an area worthy of more UNEP attention. Concern was also expressed about the Global Programme of Action in The Hague, and about whether its activities fell under the division of conventions or policy.

9. Several representatives addressed the new strategic focus of UNEP's public information delivery and welcomed the changes. Concerning UNEP's home page, several representatives stressed the need for regular and timely updates. It was stated that there was a need to link science and policy objectives to public information material in such a way that lay people were adequately informed about major environmental happenings, e.g. the IPCC process. Environmental education and training were acknowledged as being of particular relevance.

10. During the approval of the draft decision on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs, one representative, speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization and its members States, expressed appreciation to the experts that had prepared the related report (UNEP/GC.20/40).

Clusters 5 and 6. Global Environment Facility, and management and administration

11. Several representatives wished to record their support for UNEP's role in GEF and for its strengthening.

12. The Executive Director was requested to provide future meetings of the Governing Council with more detail on the proposed budget for MASC and for UNEP support to UNON, equivalent to that provided for the programme.

13. In answer to one representative's query as to what action the United Nations was pursuing to address the millennium bug computer problem, the representative of the Secretariat described the detailed measures being undertaken.

Annex IV

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ADDRESSED TO THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, DAVOS, SWITZERLAND, 2 FEBRUARY 1999

Sustainable development depends on a healthy local, national, regional and global environment. Human needs of the present and future generations should be considered in that light.

Efforts to solve global environmental issues and to ensure sustainable development can be linked through effective policy implementation. Serious political will and commitment by all sectors of society are required to achieve the goal of global environmental protection. Environmental considerations should be fully integrated into economic development and related activities.

There is a need to identify innovative combinations of policies that are efficient and cost-effective and that encourage the public and private sectors to work together. Economic sectors, including industry, financial and business sectors are essential parts of a process to identify such an innovative approach.

The United Nations Environment Programme, as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, stands ready to play a major role to promote actions at all levels that are designed to sustain the continued adequate functioning of ecological systems. It continues to facilitate scientific understanding of the nature of the links among environmental issues and their relationships to essential human needs. It bridges such scientific understanding and policy options for necessary action to protect the global environment.

We call on world business leaders to join our common cause to protect the global environment, our Planet, and our future.

Annex V

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION

Symbol	Title
UNEP/GC.20/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.20/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda of the twentieth session
UNEP/GC.20/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.20/1/Add.1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work
UNEP/GC.20/2	Policy statement of the Executive Director to the twentieth session of the UNEP Governing Council
UNEP/GC.20/3	Progress report on the Global Environment Outlook process
UNEP/GC.20/4	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories
UNEP/GC.20/5	Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law beyond the year 2000
UNEP/GC.20/6	Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building
UNEP/GC.20/7	Inter-Agency Coordination Group and System-wide strategy in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.20/8	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility
UNEP/GC.20/9	Further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies
UNEP/GC.20/10	Role of women in environment and development
UNEP/GC.20/11	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1997-1998

UNEP/GC.20/12	Report on the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.20/13	Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC.20/14	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and nineteenth special session, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC.20/15	Results of the General Assembly's consideration of the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly at fifty-third session on environment and human settlements
UNEP/GC.20/16	Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among environmental conventions
UNEP/GC.20/17	Programmatic support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to environmental conventions
UNEP/GC.20/18	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.20/19	Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme: Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme regarding small island developing States
UNEP/GC.20/19/Add.1	Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme regarding oceans management
UNEP/GC.20/19/Add.2	Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme regarding tourism
UNEP/GC.20/20	Report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services
UNEP/GC.20/21	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the proposed budget of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): revised requirements for 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for (2000-2001)

UNEP/GC.20/22 and Add.1	Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001
UNEP/GC.20/23	Stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC.20/24	Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996-1997 ended 31 December 1997
UNEP/GC.20/25	Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions
UNEP/GC.20/26	The cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions
UNEP/GC.20/27	Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and Revision of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC.20/28	Functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization
UNEP/GC.20/29	Functioning of the specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC.20/30	Mercure satellite communications system: report on a full review and cost-benefit analysis of the system and the experience gained in its initial operation
UNEP/GC.20/31	Freshwater issues: Progress in the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.V/4 and environmental issues arising from the decision
UNEP/GC.20/32 and Corr.1	Status report on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
UNEP/GC.20/33	Biosafety-related issues: implementation of Governing Council decision 19/16
UNEP/GC.20/34	Support to Africa
UNEP/GC.20/35	Status report on the establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific region

UNEP/GC.20/36	Progress report on the International Coral Reef Initiative
UNEP/GC.20/37	Further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals
UNEP/GC.20/39 and Corr.1	Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
UNEP/GC.20/40	Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs
UNEP/GC.20/41	International action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument
UNEP/GC.20/42	Contribution of the United nations Environment Programme to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development: role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the promotion of sustainable production and consumption
UNEP/GC.20/43	Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key areas of economics, trade and financial services
UNEP/GC.20/44	Action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility and its programme of work
UNEP/GC.20/45	Promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters
UNEP/GC.20/46	Reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information
UNEP/GC.20/47	Comments of the Executive Director on the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the proposed budget: revised requirements for 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for 2000-2001

UNEP/GC.20/INF/1	State of preparedness of documents for the twentieth session of the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.20/INF/2	Communications and public information services 1999-2001
UNEP/GC.20/INF/3	Report on the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements to the Secretary-General
UNEP/GC.20/INF/4 and Add.1	Memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Programme (UNEP) and the other organizations of the United Nations system
UNEP/GC.20/INF/5	United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON): Proposed Programme Budget for the Division of Administrative Services for the Biennium 2000-2001
UNEP/GC.20/INF/6	Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the accounts of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1997
UNEP/GC.20/INF/7	Status of implementation of the recommendation of the Board of Auditors in its report on the accounts of the United Nations environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1997
UNEP/GC.20/INF/8	GEO-2000: Summary and synthesis
UNEP/GC.20/INF/9	Report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories
UNEP/GC.20/INF/10	Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fifth session on the evaluation of the programme on environment
UNEP/GC.20/INF/11	Report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
UNEP/GC.20/INF/12	Revised legislative and financial texts regarding the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Fund
UNEP/GC.20/INF/13	Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements, presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session

UNEP/GC.20/INF/14	Reports of meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GC.20/INF/15	Position papers prepared for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development by the small island developing States in the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic regions and by the Pacific Island Countries
UNEP/GC.20/INF/16	Study on dispute avoidance and dispute settlement in international environmental law and the conclusions
UNEP/GC.20/INF/17	Washington Statement by the members of the UNEP/INFOTERRA Advisory Committee on the reform of UNEP's global environmental information exchange network, INFOTERRA, to ensure better public access to environmental information
UNEP/GC.20/INF/18	Environmental observing and assessment strategy
UNEP/GC.20/INF/19	UNEP management response to the 1997 Annual Evaluation Report
UNEP/GC.20/INF/20	Enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals
UNEP/GC.20/INF/21	Cape Town Declaration on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa
UNEP/GC.20/INF/22	Status of the General Assembly's consideration of the Secretary-General's report on environment and human settlements
UNEP/GC.20/INF/23	List of participants